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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Fire engulfs house in Gualo Rai

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A couple's money and all their belongings, including a car, turned into ash when a fire of still unknown cause gutted their rented house across the New XO Market in Gualo Rai yesterday morning.

"We [weren't able to] save anything because the fire was already big when we came," according to Victoria Catbagan, speaking in Tagalog.

Catbagan, 53, and her common-law husband, Romeo Tajan, 59, suspected that somebody burglarized the house and intentionally set it on fire.

The one-story house was made of light materials. The couple's 1996 Mitsubishi Mirage was also engulfed

See FIRE on Page 4

A fireman checks out the gutted house. The fire also burned the couple's vehicle.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

'We are on a huge upswing'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman went yesterday into the details of a just released prevailing wage survey, saying a scheduled 50-cent increase in the minimum wage this month signals a huge economic upswing for the Commonwealth.

"I cannot speak for individual companies, but if they are not managing their business properly, it is easy

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BEA CABRERA
Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman speaks in front of members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

'Weintraub conduct, violations not isolated'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio stated yesterday that assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub's unprofessional conduct and violations of the Model Rules of Professional conduct were not isolated incidents but kept occurring during the litigation of the case against

See WEINTRAUB on Page 4

ON POSSIBLE NUCLEAR ATTACK

HSEM: Stay indoors

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If you are not instantly killed by a nuclear blast, the next best thing to do is to seek shelter indoors.

At least that's the advice of a planner from the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, which held an open house yesterday to educate the public about

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Technology companies and executives criticize the Trump administration.
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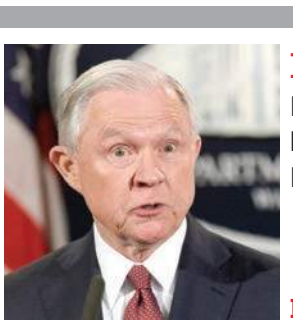

NATION
President Trump begins dismantling the DREAMER program.
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LIFE & STYLE
The man who inspired the ice bucket challenge is honored.
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Local

CNMI House honors late Nobel nominee de Brum

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) reads his House resolution that honors the late Tony A. de Brum. He is joined on the House floor by de Brum's family and members of the House of Representatives.
ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives on Tuesday honored the late Tony A. de Brum, a Marshallese politician that advocated for nuclear disarmament and environmental conservation, in a resolution presented to his family.

Resolution 20-13 extended the CNMI House of Representatives' sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of de Brum, all while honoring his significant victories after filing the landmark "Nuclear Zero" lawsuits in 2014 at the International Court of Justice against nine nuclear weapon states, along with a separate case in U.S. courts seeking to compel the U.S. to negotiate toward nuclear disarmament.

Born in 1945 on the island of Likiep, de Brum witnessed firsthand the devastation wrought by the use of nuclear weapons. At the age of 9, de Brum witnessed the "Bravo Shot," the largest U.S. nuclear test at the Bikini Atoll that produced an explosion 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb used in Hiroshima.

De Brum was one of the first Marshallese to attend university, making him a leading participant in negotiations securing the nation's Compact of Free Association with the U.S.

Besides being an advocate of the environment and anti-nuclear warheads, de Brum was a former minister-in-assistance to the president of the Marshall Islands and a former minister of foreign affairs from 2012 to 2016.

In 2012 de Brum was a recipient of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leader award. Recipients of this award include the 14th Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond tutu, Jordan's King Hussein, and Captain Jacques Cousteau.

De Brum was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize and was also voted as the Arms Control Person of the Year.

De Brum passed away last Aug. 23, at the age of 72 in Majuro.

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Festival of Cultures kicks off this Saturday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures will kick off this Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Garapan Fishing Base to showcase the islands' many cultures every Saturday of September.

The festival was started on Saipan over two years ago.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority project coordinator Lin Sablan, the event has been held in the Paseo De Marianas in the past two years, but this year will be different because the festival will be moved to the Garapan Fishing Base.

The transition has become necessary because of how cramped up the original area of the festival has become.

The event was originally set to start last Saturday, Sept. 2, but because of harmful weather conditions, the festival's opening was postponed.

According to Sablan, the festival will attract international representatives of the most common cultures found on the islands like Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Bangladesh, etc.

Each culture will be provided a booth that they will decorate and serve food that is authentic to their culture.

These individuals will also dress in their cultural wear and perform.

This year, the festival will kick off with a "Parade of Cultures," starting at 4:30pm, from the American Memorial Park to the Garapan Fishing Base.

According to Sablan, the goal is to make an individual feel like they actually visited a different place by attending the festival.

"Some of us haven't been to different places. Now is the time we get to see how it is, what goes on with their language, their food, their traditional dances, and any demonstrations from their culture," said Sablan.

According to Pacific Development Inc. managing director Gordon Marciano, the event also intends to attract tourists and is important because it recognizes the different ethnic groups that have made Saipan their home. Marciano said the diversity on the islands speaks volumes of the kind of people who inhabit Saipan.

"We are a multicultural island," said Marciano.

This year the community should expect a cultural fashion show. This is significant because in the last two years, it was never done.

The event will take place this Saturday starting at 4:30pm and will held be every Saturday throughout the month of September.

Bill to address abandoned lots draws mixed feedback

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A local bill that seeks to prevent the proliferation of blighted and abandoned properties on Saipan garnered mixed reactions alike from citizens and government agencies during yesterday's joint public hearing.

Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo said she supports the intent of House Local Bill 20-14, but opposes several provisions that she said would seriously affect the department.

Citing numerous points from a previous letter that commented on a past form of the bill, Teregeyo pointed out that HLB 20-14, which seeks to make lease-owners and leasees responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of leased properties, would also affect some lands under DPL.

A provision in HLB 20-14 also seeks to impose a daily fine of $200 for a first offense and up to $1,000 for subsequent offenses—fines that Teregeyo said DPL can't pay.

"The cost to comply would significantly exceed the lease revenues generated by DPL, leaving nothing to be remitted to [the Marianas Public Land Trust Fund] as required by the Constitution," said Teregeyo.

» DPL supports intent but opposes certain provisions

Teregeyo recommended that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation first make some changes to HLB 20-14, some of which include revisiting the fee amounts, providing clearer parameters on the bill's applicability as well as how far it would apply to DPL, among many others.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion wholly supported the intent of the bill due to the many unsightly properties on Saipan. According to Concepcion, tourists have been providing negative feedback on the abandoned properties and structures scattered across the CNMI.

"We think that the bill is good; [the bill] would start to improve the overall aesthetic appeal of the islands," said Concepcion.

The only drawback that Concepcion sees with HLB 20-14 is enforcement. He thinks the 60-day timeline provided by the bill upon the issuance of a violation notice is "difficult to enforce and

See BILL on Page 4

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Apatang backs bill on blighted structures

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office supports the enactment of House Local Bill 20-14 that would hold lessees accountable for the maintenance of their property once the original lessor leaves.

According to the office's special assistant, Henry Hofschneider, it was discovered during village visits that, in many of the villages on Saipan, there are blighted properties that are either used to store municipal waste or have become dilapidated and covered in hazardous vegetation.

It is not the mayor's office's responsibility to maintain these properties but they have found themselves maintaining these properties to protect the wellness of the community, he said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of villages by ridding them of debris, garbage, stray animals, and more. The office was recently invited to comment on HLB 20-14, which was introduced to discourage abandoned and blighted properties on Saipan.

According to the comments submitted by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, he and his office support the bill and encourage the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation to pass it.

"In our municipality, abandoned or neglected properties are health and safety concerns that the government must take charge to protect the public from potential harm," said Apatang.

According to Apatang in his letter, he believes that penalties should be implemented on property owners who do not maintain their property.

"The bill contains penalties that are typical in other jurisdictions to control blighted properties and we believe our municipality should adopt the same penalties for they have been tested and withstood legal challenges," said Apatang.

He did suggest that the delegation give these property owners some sort of amnesty.

"The only suggestion we want to offer is to make the implementation of the bill less threatening to the members of the public that potentially face the penalties," said Apatang.

He suggests a notice be given in advance to the property owners before the bill is passed to give them an opportunity to be in compliance.

"[Insert a] provision that [gives property owners breathing room for] at least six months after it becomes law. In this way, property owners that are in violation of the law will have advance notice to take care of their property," said Apatang.

Suspected 'ice' trafficker on Tinian busted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force agents arrested on Tuesday morning a suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

Yingzi Zhang Pangelinan, 55, also known as Gina, was served with an arrest warrant on Tinian on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and conspiracy to traffic a controlled substance.

Her bail was set at $100,000 cash yesterday; preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 12. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Pangelinan.

Police sergeant George Fleming David disclosed that based on their surveillance, information provided by a cooperating source, and his observations, he believes that Pangelinan has been using her house in San Jose, Tinian to facilitate the sale of illegal drugs.

David said their cooperating source, accompanied by an undercover police sergeant, managed to buy $500 worth or 1.4 gross grams of "ice" from Pangelinan during a controlled purchase operation last Monday.

David said the cooperating source and the undercover agent proceeded to Pangelinan's house for the drug transaction, but the defendant instructed them to follow her.

Upon reaching the Cha Cha Poker building complex, the defendant allegedly instructed the cooperating source to pick up the "ice" placed in a cigarette pack and hidden underneath an abandoned vehicle.

David said the substance tested presumptive positive for the presence of meth.

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HSEM

From Page 1

what the office does.

With tensions increasing between the administration of U.S. President Donald J. Trump and the North Korean government of Kim Jung Un, the latter has been constantly threatening to strike the neighboring island of Guam.

Major news outlets recently reported that North Korea has successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, a nuclear weapon several times more destructive compared to the atomic bombs used by the U.S. on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

HSEM planner and grants manager B.J. Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* that HSEM is monitoring the situation the North Korea situation with the Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, adding that information between the three agencies is constantly shared.

If worse comes to worst, it is best to stay indoors to prevent a fatal nuclear fallout following the initial blast, he said. This is also assuming that the blast area does not affect the CNMI.

"Stay indoors and ensure you have water and food to last you for three to five days. Stay tuned to media outlets," said Nicolas.

More information on how to handle emergencies may be found at the HSEM website at http://www.cnmihsem.gov.mp.

Opens house

In order to display how information on several events is obtained, the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capitol Hill is currently open to the public from Sept. 6 through 8.

A tour is provided, accompanied with a preparedness brief, to discuss preparedness measures and upcoming weather outlook for the rest of 2017.

The tour is open to the public twice a day—at 10am and at 2pm. Contact EOC at 237-8000 for more information.

Unfazed

The South Korean community on Saipan itself is not fazed by North Korean threats.

Korean Community chair Lim Jae Yeol and Korean Community secretary Simon Sin said the local Korean community is not at all disturbed by the threats of the North Korean leader to attack Guam.

According to Sin, Kim is smart enough to know that if he had gone through with the plan to fire a missile toward a United States territory, North Korea would suffer the consequences immensely.

"Kim Jong Un isn't a crazy guy. He knows that if he does that, he will disappear within a few hours …we know he's not going to do that," said Sin.

According to Yeol, North Korea can probably get away with a war against South Korea, but the entire Korean community knows that North Korea doesn't stand a chance against the United States.

"They know how big America is. The Korean people know so we don't worry about it, he cannot do it," said Yeol.

Yeol said the government is the reason why the whole situation has been blown out of proportion. According to Yeol, everyone but South Koreans fear the threat.

"Politicians, they talk about danger and war and that was the problem. Our people didn't have that problem," said Yeol.

The Korean Community on Saipan believes that although Kim may be "all talk," he is still capable of posing a threat to other countries.

The bigger threat to the Korean community is that Kim will continue to further develop a missile that can travel as far as the United States. "The development of the missile and the warhead, he did what he said," said Sin.

Sin believes Kim will not give up until he develops a threat big enough to push the United States to withdraw its army from South Korea.

Sin, along with the entire Korean community, believes Kim's threats against the Pacific is not something to be worried about.

North Korea and the U.S. and South Korea are technically still at war, with the parties just signing an armistice after the end of the Korean Conflict in 1953. ***(With Kimberly Bautista)***

UPSWING

From Page 1

to say that they [would] not [be] able to meet the 50-cent increase.

"Everything should be moving upwards rather than downwards and backwards. We should follow where our economic trend is going," Rabauliman said.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting yesterday at Kanoa Resort, Rabauliman went into details on how the latest Prevailing Wage and Workforce Study on the CNMI's Occupational Titles and their Wages was collated that showed a 42-percent increase in wages across the board from 2014 to 2016.

The study is used by CNMI employers when petitioning workers for employment visas. When the CNMI still hadn't had the results of the survey, they relied on the figures of Guam and Hawaii, which usually show higher wage rates.

The year 2016 was the third round of the CNMI prevailing wage study. The first was in 2011, followed by another in 2014, and then in 2016. The primary purpose of the study is to determine the types of occupations that exist and measure up the Pacific hourly wage rate for each of the identified occupation for the CNMI.

The PWWS was released in two separate results. The first part is called the 2016 CNMI Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study where the standard occupational code, detailed occupational titles, and hourly wage report were included.

Rabauliman said this showed the type of occupation and the hourly wage rates for each of the occupations.

The study was participated by a total of 1,485 employers in the CNMI: 1,350 on Saipan, 80 on Tinian, and 57 on Rota, while the total number of individual employees who participated was 19,827.

According to Rabauliman, 19,811 out of the 19,827 of the individual employees have valid occupation titles and 523 of them belong under the Detailed Occupation Titles in the CNMI.

Valid occupation titles are occupations that do not require a vocation or a specialty, while detailed occupation titles are occupations where individuals have a particular vocation or specialty such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc.

The study showed that, based on 19,518 individual employment records, the CNMI's overall hourly wage rate mean was $12.38 and the median was $8.25.

The CNMI's direct hourly wage rate mean was $10.87 and the median was $7.35.

Central Statistics director Justin Andrews said the hourly wage rate mean "is with fringe benefits." Direct hourly wage rate mean, on the other hand, "does not include fringe benefits."

Rabauliman said that they have submitted the result of the study to federal counterparts and are just waiting for these agencies to accept the results.

The second part of the results covered the workforce demographics and other characteristics, broken into citizenship, ethnic group, gender, island, industry, visa type, and by standard operation major titles. Hourly wage rate mean was used for each category. The mean is obtained by adding the occupation in the group, divided by the number of occupations in the group.

By citizenship, U.S. citizens comprise 41 percent of the total, with an hourly wage rate mean of $14.43. Filipino citizens comprise 31 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.91. Chinese citizens comprise 6 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $11.83.

By ethnic group, Filipinos comprise 31 percent of the total, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.91. Pacific Islanders comprise 11 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $15.35. Chamorros comprise 10 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $11.61, and Chinese comprise 5 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.57.

The study emphasized that not every employer uses an ethnic classification system. The CNMI government, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Public School System use the federal reporting requirement and do not make distinctions between the various ethnic groups. They lump the Pacific ethnic group into Pacific Islander.

By gender, male comprise 53 percent of the total with an hourly wage rate mean of $12.44, while female comprise 42 percent with an hourly wage rate mean of $12.37.

By island, Saipan employs 96 percent of the total, with an hourly wage rate mean of $12.47; Tinian 3 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $11, and Rota 1 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $7.24.

By industry, accommodation and food services comprised 17 percent of the total, with an hourly wage rate mean of $12.66; public administration comprises 14 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $18.24; administrative and support and waste management etc. is at 9 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.22; construction was at 8 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $10.69; retail trade, 8 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.42; and educational services, 7 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $18.04.

By visa, U.S. citizens or non-visa workers comprise 53 percent of the total, CW workers comprise 34 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.46, and H1-B, at 3 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $17.09.

Under standard occupational classifications with major titles, office administration support occupations comprise 15 percent of the total, with an hourly wage rate mean of $11.35; management occupations comprise 11 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $20.57; food preparation and serving-related occupations, 10 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.62; sales and related occupations, 7 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $7.99; and construction and extraction occupation, 7 percent, with an hourly wage rate mean of $8.50.

"The importance of these data is to bring it out for public consumption. As for enforcement of minimum wage, there are other agencies that are responsible for that. The Labor Enforcement Division takes care of the enforcement," Rabauliman said.

The next minimum wage increase is mandated by law this Sept. 20, with new minimum wage at $7.05.

FIRE

From Page 1

in flames as it was adjacent to the house.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze after about 30 minutes. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has yet to release information about the incident.

After securing the house around 7:55am, the couple walked over to the New XO Market, where they are both employed as stockers.

At about 9am, the couple's friends called to tell them that their house was burning. The couple ran to the house, but it was already engulfed in thick smoke and large fire.

The couple failed to save any of their belongings, including clothes, money, passports, and other items. Catbagan said they had just received their salaries last Tuesday; the money was burned too.

"We don't know what to do now," said Catbagan, who has been on Saipan since 1992. Tajan has been on the island since 1995.

The couple had been renting the house, which is owned by Jess Kaipat, for seven years now. The couple said they never fell victim to burglars because Kaipat, who lives near the house, is always watchful. Kaipat, however, is currently off island, in the Philippines.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers were at the scene yesterday, interviewing and assisting the couple.

Last July 23, a fire engulfed a container filled with eggs and frozen goods in a compound located beside the New XO Market along Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Loud explosions were heard from the container, but no one was injured.

Witnesses said the container belonged to the New XO Market.

WEINTRAUB

From Page 1

Michael Barry Murphy.

In a written order, Kim-Tenorio said the total weight of Weintraub's lack of preparation and diligence had wide reach and directly affected several government agencies, the public, and the alleged victim and Murphy himself.

Accordingly, the judge said, the total weight of the violations supported imposing punitive monetary sanctions against Weintraub.

Weintraub was ordered to donate $500 to a non-profit organization on Saipan that is dedicated to helping sexually abused children.

Kim-Tenorio first imposed the sanction against Weintraub last Aug. 29 when she made the prosecutor explain her conduct in the Murphy case.

Weintraub had moved to drop the sexual abuse charges against the 54-year-old Murphy, with the option to re-file the case in the future. Kim-Tenorio granted the motion but criticized Weintraub for her lack of diligence and dilatory tactics.

In her written order yesterday, Kim-Tenorio said the imposition of sanctions complied with due process and was appropriate and that Weintraub failed to show sufficient cause why she should not be sanctioned.

Weintraub denied having a pattern of dismissing and re-charging cases, saying she has a reputation for being a fair and honest attorney. Kim-Tenorio was not persuaded.

Kim-Tenorio said that Weintraub's response falls short of recognizing the total effect of several delays in the case to the victim, the defense, the Judiciary, as well as other involved agencies.

Second, the judge said, Weintraub's argument that every continuance had been agreed to is false, citing Murphy's motion to deny the government's request to postpone the trial that was filed last March 7.

Third, Kim-Tenorio said, Weintraub demonstrates a pattern of bringing cases up to the point of trial unprepared and fails to address alleged prosecutorial harassment and attempt to circumvent court orders or deadlines.

Moreover, Kim-Tenorio said, despite Weintraub's two-year tenure with the Office of the Attorney General, there are zero references that attest to her conduct or character as a prosecutor on Saipan.

Citing Weintraub's conducts in this case, Kim-Tenorio said Weintraub failed to meet the minimum standard of competence, diligence, duty to expedite litigation, and conduct prohibiting misconduct under the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Birnbrich named Office of the Governor legal counsel

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently appointed Gilbert J. Birnbrich to serve as legal counsel for the Office of the Governor.

Birnbrich replaces Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan, who formerly served as legal counsel for the administrations of Torres and the late governor Eloy S. Inos.

"Gil brings years of quality legal and administrative experience to this team. I believe his love for our community will make him an effective advocate for the CNMI. He will provide me with thoughtful legal advice, while playing a vital role for this administration in developing policies that serve our people," Torres said.

A former Commonwealth attorney general (2014 to 2015), Birnbrich supervised all aspects of the Office of the Attorney General, which included criminal prosecution, civil litigation and transactional work, legal opinions, investigations, and personnel and budget management.

He described his role within the administration as a position of responsibility, trust, and passion for the community.

"In my years living on Saipan since 2003, I learned much about the law and the CNMI. I learned that the law could and should be dispensed in a firm but fair manner. I also learned to love the islands and its people. As a local friend of mine put it, 'The CNMI grows on you, and you then grow within it.' I care for the CNMI and its people and anticipate living here until I grow old. I believe that I have a duty to be involved and make this place a great place to live," he said.

During his tenure as attorney general, Birnbrich negotiated and settled with the Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding liabilities under a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. consent decree. He also successfully concluded the negotiations for the casino license and development agreement and assisted the Commonwealth Election Commission in conducting a fair and transparent general election in 2014.

In addition to his time as attorney general, he served as deputy attorney general from 2013 to 2014, Civil Division chief of the Office of the Attorney General from 2011 to 2013, and assistant attorney general from 2010 to 2011.

He was an associate attorney for the Thompson Law Office from 2009 to 2010, where he concentrated in representing clients in litigation involving Title VII employment discrimination, Fair Labor Standards Act litigation, and insurance matters.

He was a judicial law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands under Chief Judge Alex R. Munson from 2003 to 2005. Prior to that, he served as a judicial law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas from 2002 to 2003 and for the District of Nevada in 2002. He also clerked for the Wood County Court of Common Pleas in his home state of Ohio from 1999 to 2002.

Birnbrich graduated cum laude from the University of Toledo College of Law and received his bachelor's degree from the Ohio State University in economics.

He is actively involved in paddling where he is a member of the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports federation. He serves on the governing board of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization. He is also a director for the Northern Marianas Sports Association, the CNMI's national governing body for sports. ***(PR)***

NEW COO

Tucker Baldwin, right, is joined by Joe Guerrero at the general meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Kanoa Resort. Baldwin is the new chief operating officer of Bridge Capital, LLC. He has worked in Bridge Capital subsidiary companies for five years before joining the office in the CNMI.

BEA CABRERA

Legal holidays in NMI in 2018

The Office of the Governor issued its list of 14 legal holidays that will be observed in 2018 in the Commonwealth, which means that schools and government offices are closed on those days.

"All department and activity heads must ensure that essential public services are not disrupted," the notice added.

The holidays are the following:

- Jan. 1, New Year's Day
- Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 19, President's Day
- March 24, Commonwealth Covenant Day, to be observed on March 23
- March 30, Good Friday
- May 28, Memorial Day
- July 4, Independence Day
- Sept. 3, Labor Day
- Oct. 8, Commonwealth Cultural Day
- Nov. 4, Citizenship Day, to be observed Nov. 5
- Nov. 11, Veterans Day, to be observed Nov. 12
- Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 8, Constitution Day, to be observed Dec. 7
- Dec. 25, Christmas Day ***(PR)***

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-26

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"LAUNDRY & LINEN SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE- 27

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"CHARGEMASTER, BUSINESS OFFICE, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-28

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"SOLAR PV SYSTEMS PROJECT, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING
THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 AT 9:00A.M CHST. AT THE MAIN FACILITY OFFICE. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED–UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Hypertension is a major risk factor for heart attack, heart failure, and stroke. It is preventable through maintaining a healthy body weight and following a diet low in sodium and adequate in potassium. Regretfully, most recent survey administered by the CNMI Department of Public Health found that about 70% of adults ate at least 1 daily serving of processed meat, which is a major source of sodium, and only 24% of adults ate more than 5 daily servings of fruits and vegetables. Eating more fruits and vegetables everyday will increase potassium in a person's diet and help to prevent obesity, which is a major modifiable risk factor for hypertension, Type II Diabetes, and some types of cancer.

Please, share this message.

The Racial and Ethic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program focuses on increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables through the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Project in order to prevent obesity. When dining out, look for BIBA menu items at participating restaurants: Shirley's Coffee Shop, Caravan of Food, and Everest Kitchen.

Matson launches new Okinawa service

HONOLULU—Matson, Inc., a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, has inaugurated service to the port of Naha, Okinawa.

Having received all necessary permits and clearances, the new weekly service made its first call at Naha on Sept. 2, 2017.

Matson has added the new port of call to its expedited China-Long Beach Express service, offering transit times from the U.S. West Coast up to four days faster than existing services in the market.

Westbound transit times to Naha are 17 days from Long Beach, 18 days from Oakland, 21 days from Seattle, and 11 days from Honolulu.

Eastbound transits from Naha are 14 days to Long Beach, 17 days to Oakland and 33 days to Seattle.

Along with fastest transit times, Matson's dedicated terminal operations on the West Coast provide shippers with late cut-off times, industry-leading truck turn times and use of Matson's extensive owned chassis inventory throughout the U.S.

» New route cuts four days off fastest transit in the market

Matson operates its CLX service with five U.S. flagged vessels carrying containerized and bulk cargo. These ships are the most modern vessels serving Okinawa from the U.S.

"Matson was rated the No. 1 ocean carrier in the world for three consecutive years because of its commitment to operating the fastest and most reliable service in the markets we serve," said John Lauer, chief commercial officer. "Consistent with that commitment and Matson's strategy to look for ways to leverage its superior Pacific network to offer new services, adding Naha allows us to provide the fastest service to an important locale for the U.S. government. The westbound transit time from Long Beach to Naha will save shippers up to four days on existing services in the market."

Bookings for westbound cargo to Naha are being handled by Matson's award-winning Customer Service Center. Matson has appointed Ekistics EpiCenter Inc. as its exclusive agent in Okinawa.

Naha replaces the previous direct call at Xiamen, China in Matson's China-Long Beach Express service, which will now call Long Beach-Honolulu-Guam-Naha-Ningbo-Shanghai-Long Beach. Matson's eastbound service from Ningbo and Shanghai is unchanged, providing the industry's fastest service to the U.S. West Coast.

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Micronesia and select South Pacific islands, and operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California. The company's fleet of 21 owned vessels and six chartered vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, and less-than-container load freight consolidation and forwarding to Alaska. Additional information about Matson, Inc. is available at www.matson.com. ***(PR)***

MPROVEMENT IN AIRPORT SERVICE

The car rental office in front of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is currently under renovation. Construction started early this year and is projected to be done by November 2017. Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher Tenorio said, "We are doing renovations in the car rental office for better use. We moved the car rental office temporarily near the police station at the airport but once the renovated carpark is complete, the staff of the car rental office will move back to the new office."

BEA CABRERA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scholarship Office closed today

The CNMI Scholarship Office will be temporarily closed today, Sept. 7, 2017, for Staff Professional Development Day. Business will resume tomorrow, Sept. 8, 2017. Email supporting documents to awards@cnmischolarship.net. ***(PR)***

Military training at Agat Bay, W-517, Orote Point

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay within the following coordinates: 13° 23"N/144° 35"E today, Sept. 7, from 1pm to 6pm. The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 tomorrow, Sept. 8, from 9am to 3pm. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Grief support meeting today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, Sept. 7, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

In honor of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month, we will have a special presentation by a guest speaker on the topic of surviving suicide loss. Anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide is encouraged to attend.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

Veterans benefits outreach tomorrow

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a veterans benefits outreach tomorrow, Sept. 8, 2017, from 9am to 3pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Kalani Echang, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer questions and take your claims. For an appointment call Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. All veterans, family members, and veteran widowers are encouraged to avail to their services. ***(PR)***

CNMI Scholarship deadline for NMC's PLA Program extended

The CNMI Scholarship Office has extended the deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Prior Learning Assessment program to Sept. 8, 2017. Students who would like to apply for financial aid for NMC's PLA program can submit a scholarship application to the CNMI Scholarship Office in Capitol Hill no later than Sept. 8, 2017. For more information, contact Raymond Muna by calling 237-6746 or emailing raymond.muna@marianas.edu. Additional information is also available at marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Vice speaker looks at lower end of frozen wages during austerity measure

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) is looking into the case of government employees affected by frozen wages during the austerity measures implemented in the early 2000s.

According to an Aug. 30, 2017, letter to Office of Personnel Management director Isidro K. Seman, Maratita is requesting the director to provide a list of all active and inactive employees who are owed a Within-Grade Increase or WGI.

"I am currently gathering information to ensure that these affected individuals will be treated equally as those that have been given retroactive lump-sum payments to the active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen at Step 12," reads part of Maratita's letter.

In an interview with the vice speaker on Tuesday, she told *Saipan Tribune* that her bill, which was introduced as an unnumbered bill during the House session last Aug. 30, seeks to address the concerns of employees who had their wages stuck during the austerity period.

Now numbered as House Bill 20-120, the bill seeks to retroactively pay employees whose wages were stuck at a certain pay level but got promoted during the austerity period.

"Commonwealth government employees who did not receive salary increases due to financial austerity measures are hereby entitled to the salary increases retroactive to the time that the employee would have been entitled to the salary increase in the absence of the financial austerity measures," the bill states.

Like H.B. 20-108, the bill that addressed the retroactive payment of government employee wages stuck at Step 12, the OPM would determine the amount of the suspended salary increase each employee is owed.

No particular action has been done on the bill. Maratita is currently waiting for OPM to provide the list of affected employees before any action could be considered.

International Parade of Cultures this Saturday

The opening of the 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures, postponed from last Saturday, Sept. 2, due to inclement weather, will be held this Saturday, Sept. 9.

The festival will kick off with the Parade of Cultures at a new time of 4:30pm on Beach Road through downtown Garapan from the American Memorial Park to the festival grounds, followed by an ethnic attire fashion show on stage.

Entertainment will continue onstage with the Chamorro community at 5:30pm, the Chuukese and Pohnpeian community at 6:30pm, the Chinese community at 6:45pm, the Korean community at 7pm, the Palauan community at 7:15pm, the Bangladeshi community at 7:45pm, the Chamorro community at 8pm, and Refaluwasch community at 8:30pm.

The festival, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, will have four remaining Saturdays during September and is scheduled from 5pm to 9pm at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Festivities will include ethnic food, hands-on cultural demonstrations, games, ethnic attire, arts and crafts, and more.

MVA

In this file photo, Bangladesh and other ethnic cuisine is served at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016. The 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures will begin on Sept. 9, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base and continue every Saturday throughout the month.

This Saturday's festivities will also include demonstrations of traditional *uumw* (ground oven).

"We're looking forward to finally opening up the International Festival of Cultures this weekend and look forward to welcoming both visitors and residents to this incredible event celebrating our cultural diversity here in the Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We plan to jazz up our venue this year with a photo worthy grand entrance, hanging light fixtures, decorations featuring natural materials, and much more. It will be a sight to see."

Slated to participate in the festival are the communities of Korea, China, Japan, Chamorro, Carolinian, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Palau, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Janerlinse Seman Sablan at jsablan@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

USCIS to expand in-person interview rules for certain permanent residency applicants

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin expanding in-person interviews for certain immigration benefit applicants whose benefit, if granted, would allow them to permanently reside in the United States.

This change complies with Executive Order 13780, "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States," and is part of the agency's comprehensive strategy to further improve the detection and prevention of fraud and further enhance the integrity of the immigration system.

Effective Oct. 1, USCIS will begin to phase-in interviews for the following:

■ Adjustment of status applications based on employment (Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status).

■ Refugee/asylee relative petitions (Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition) for beneficiaries who are in the United States and are petitioning to join a principal asylee/refugee applicant.

Previously, applicants in these categories did not require an in-person interview with USCIS officers in order for their application for permanent residency to be adjudicated. Beyond these categories, USCIS is planning an incremental expansion of interviews to other benefit types.

"This change reflects the [Trump] administration's commitment to upholding and strengthening the integrity of our nation's immigration system," said acting USCIS director James W. McCament. "USCIS and our federal partners are working collaboratively to develop more robust screening and vetting procedures for individuals seeking immigration benefits to reside in the United States."

Conducting in-person interviews will provide USCIS officers with the opportunity to verify the information provided in an individual's application, to discover new information that may be relevant to the adjudication process, and to determine the credibility of the individual seeking permanent residence in the United States.

USCIS will meet the additional interview requirement through enhancements in training and technology as well as transitions in some aspects of case management.

Additionally, individuals can report allegations of immigration fraud or abuse by completing ICE's tip form. ***(USCIS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters presents a hole-in-one prize of $10,000 to Marianas Tourism Education Council's chair Vicky Benavente (third from left) as a sponsor of the recently held 2nd annual Governor's Tourism Cup. Proceeds from the fundraising golf tournament will benefit the MTEC and MY WAVE Clubs to continue the education outreach programs for the youth. From left, MVA community projects coordinator Ray Villagomez, MVA's Demi Pagarao, and Pacifica Insurance representatives.

Joeten Motor Co. general manager Matt Deets, second from left, presents a 2017 Honda Civic Sport Edition as a hole-in-one prize for the recently held Governor's Tourism Cup. Accepting the prize on behalf of the Marianas Tourism Education Council and MVA is tournament director James Nelson, MVA PR & Community Programs manager Martin Duenas, and MTEC board chair Vicky Benavente. Looking on are Joeten Motor Co. sales consultants Mona Manglona, Tina Togawa, and Julie O. Manglona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TanHoldings, TSL Foundation to host Field of Heroes anew

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the charitable arm of the TanHoldings Group of Companies, will be hosting the 2nd Annual We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes this month on three islands of the CNMI to remember the 9/11 attack victims 16 years ago and honor community heroes who rallied to help.

On Tinian, the commemorative event will be held from Sept. 5 to 17 at the Veterans Memorial Park.

On Rota, it will be held from Sept. 7 to 22 at the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Veterans Memorial Park.

The Saipan event will take place from Sept. 10 to 18 at the American Memorial Park.

This year's event builds on last year's highly successful commemoration.

This event entails the posting of U.S. flags, with the hope that it will bring the community together to remember the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon 16 years ago and honor community heroes—past or present service members, public safety officers, fire and rescue personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and other first responders.

IT&E
August 30, 2017
Pay to the Order of Tan Holdings
$3,000.00
THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS ONLY
For 2017 We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes
life, motion & you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E present a check for $3,000 as a heritage sponsor to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/ TanHoldings last week. Present for the check presentation were, from left, Carline Sablan, community relations director, TanHoldings; Catherine Attao, vice president for corporate affairs and corporate human resources, TanHoldings; Rob Harrell, executive director for customer operations, IT&E; Merlie Tolentino, general manager, Tan Siu Lin Foundation; and Mel Naputi, administrative officer, Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Tribute ceremonies will be held at each event site: Sept. 8 on Rota at 4:30pm, Sept. 11 on Tinian at 10am, and Sept. 11 on Saipan immediately following the Freedom Walk, which will begin at the Garapan Fishing Base at 5pm and end at the American Memorial Park.

Remember a victim of the 9/11 attacks or honor a community hero by sponsoring a flag in their name. For a small donation, sponsors may retain the flag at the close of the event or just have flags posted in the name of a hero for the duration of the event. Commemorative T-shirts are also available for a small donation. All funds raised will go toward providing local support for post-traumatic stress disorder survivors.

Flag and T-shirt donations may be dropped off at I-Shops at Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, or Paseo de Marianas, Shirley's Coffee Shops, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation office on the second floor of the JP Center in Garapan, the Tinian Mayor's Office, or the Rota Mayor's Office.

"We invite the public to support the We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes and walk through the orderly rows of flags," said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan. "A visit is necessary to truly appreciate the display of flags honoring 9/11 attack victims and community heroes. Donors, event sponsors and visitors know to expect an inspiring and memorable display of red, white and blue while supporting a great cause."

The 2017 We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes is brought to you by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, TanHoldings, American Memorial Park, IT&E, Power 99, Triple J Enterprises Saipan, GPPC, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific International, *Marianas Variety*, Docomo Pacific, and many other sponsors. ***(PR)***

Saipan Brewing signs on as Green Gala sponsor

Saipan Brewing Co. has signed on as a sponsor of the Green Gala, the signature fundraising event of the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance.

According to MINA board member Somia Quan, "Having Saipan Brew featured as a fresh and locally-produced beer is a perfect fit for this year's 'Farm to Table' theme, and we sincerely appreciate their commitment to conservation in the Marianas."

Saipan Brewing Co. owners Steve Sablan and Jay Wolf presented their sponsorship commitment to Quan.

"Saipan Brewing Company is proud to be a sponsor of this year's MINA Green Gala and to provide our local craft beer for the event," said Sablan and Wolf in a joint statement. "As a local, homegrown small business, we share the vision of MINA that environmental conservation starts with each of us. Saipan Brewing uses local ingredients whenever possible, packages in cans due to their recycling potential, and donates 100 percent of our used brewing grain to local farmers.

"MINA is proud to have Saipan Brewing Company as a valued sponsor for this year's event," said Quan.

For more information on MINA's projects and the Green Gala, or to purchase tickets, contact 233-REEF (7333), or send an email to minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Brewing Co. owners Steve Sablan and Jay Wolf present their sponsorship commitment to Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance board member Somia Quan as part of their commitment to MINA's fundraising efforts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E's Janice Tenorio poses with Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance officials and Tasi Watch rangers with the presentation of cash and also valuable prizes for MINA's Green Gala.

IT&E joins MINA's fundraising efforts

IT&E has joined the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance to raise funds for conservation in the CNMI.

IT&E's Janice Tenorio recently presented MINA with cash and prizes that will be included in this year's silent auction at MINA's Green Gala.

Rose Soledad, IT&E general manager, said: "IT&E supports organizations advocating for environmental conservation, and we are so proud to be a part of MINA's efforts as an emerald sponsor of its signature fundraiser Green Gala."

MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero expressed MINA's appreciation for the continued support of IT&E in MINA's efforts to continue to build on the culture of recycling in the CNMI, and other programs that are supported through the generous contributions and participation of corporate sponsors.

This year's Green Gala features a "Farm to Table" theme, which highlights locally produced vegetables, fruits, and meats, as well as local brew, wine, and spirits at a no-host bar. In addition to a wonderful dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature entertainment by local artists, highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening.

The Green Gala is slated for Sept. 15 at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan; doors open at 6pm. Tickets for the Green Gala event are $75 per person

For more information or tickets to the Green Gala, call 233-REEF (7333) or contact them by email: minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

UOG welcomes students to first *Fanuchånan* semester

The University of Guam welcomes nearly 4,000 students to its first ever *Fanuchånan* semester. Beginning this academic year, the fall and spring semesters have been officially renamed *Fanuchånan* and *Fañomnåkan* respectively.

Fanuchånan literally means "a place for rain" and represents the rainy season. The *Fanuchånan* semester runs from August to December.

Spring has been renamed *Fañomnåkan*, which means "a place for sunshine" and represents the dry season. The semester runs from January to May.

Spearheaded by UOG president Robert Underwood, the change reflects the island's tropical environment.

"UOG is unique in that we are the only U.S. accredited institution of higher education dedicated to serving Guam and the Micronesian region," said Underwood. "The [Chamorro] spirit and heritage of *Unibetsedåt Guahan* is also unique, and as a way to share this uniqueness with the world, our semesters have been renamed in the [Chamorro] language."

The fall Intersession has been renamed *Tinalo',* which means "in the middle." Summer Sessions A, B, C are now *Finakpo' 1, 2, 3,* which means "at the end."

The university has also produced an explainer video about the change, which can be viewed on the UOG website at www.uog.edu or on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3ZZlypoXoc.

Two more NMC nursing graduates pass NCLEX-RN exam on first try

Two more graduates of the Northern Marianas College's Class of 2017 recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses on their first attempt.

Joy Waldo and Joshua Tanghal, who graduated from NMC last May, have just passed the NCLEX, joining the ranks of other NMC graduates who passed the difficult exam before them. These students include Michael Hidalgo, Gemmilie Eugenio, Lovely Lopez, Mika Sablan, and Yuguen Oh, whose achievement in passing the NCLEX was announced recently.

Waldo

Tanghal

The NCLEX-RN is the exam that nursing graduates in the CNMI must pass in order to become a practicing nurse. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped and capable to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

"We are very proud of Joy's and Joshua's accomplishment as well as the other NMC students who have passed the NCLEX," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are even more excited to learn that they plan to apply at [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] where they can apply their training as nurses."

Rosa Tudela, chairperson of the NMC's Nursing Department, said, "We are so excited by our graduates' accomplishments. All of their hard work has paid off! Thank you also to my great faculty for doing such wonderful work with our students!"

To our students, it is our hope that you go on to advance your nursing education and give back to our community through your selfless service of care and devotion. We are confident that you are ready to meet any challenges before you and do your very best," Tudela added.

"The Northern Marianas College Nursing Program prepared me very well to conquer this exam. The instructors were a big help; their constant push and advice made it possible for me to pass the NCLEX," said Waldo.

Tanghal said many hours of studying and support from his family and friends helped him pass the test.

For more information about the NMC nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus, Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. ***(NMC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 14th birthday, Brinae Jessilyn! May you day be filled with love, joy, and happiness on your special day and we wish you many, many more birthdays to come. We love you. Greetings come from J.R. Girls and the family.

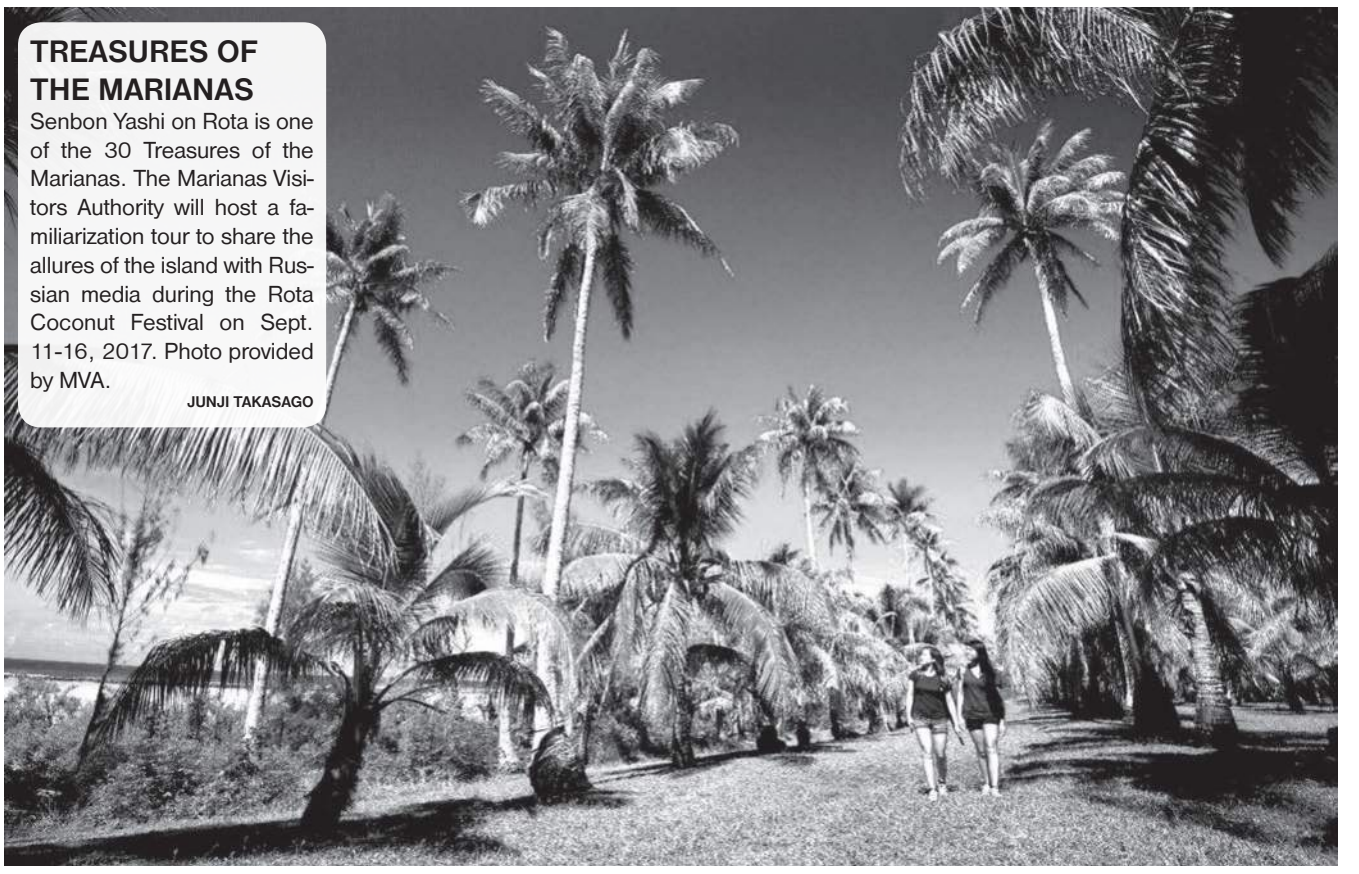
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo statement on end of DACA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) released the following statement yesterday on President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, more commonly known as DACA.

"President Trump's decision to rescind DACA is an unnecessary and cruel action against members of our community who are or were brought to the United States as children. DACA has allowed 800,000 young people—including some of our neighbors and friends [in] Guam—to learn and work in our communities and for many, the United States of America is the only country they have ever known. While President Trump's reversal of DACA affects our nation, his decision impacts residents on Guam as well.

"For example, Christine, a 22-year-old DREAMer who arrived [in] Guam as a child, has benefited from the DACA program and has made Guam her home. Despite the circumstances dealt her way, she latched onto the American dream and is now a vital part of our society working as a registered nurse, giving back to our society. Our island community has had a strong history of supporting immigrants and those who come to our country and island for a better life. While there is work to be done to improve our immigration system, rescinding DACA does not strengthen efforts to keep America safe or level the playing field; all it accomplishes is creating a level of uncertainty for these DREAMers who contribute positively to our nation. Today, I join my colleagues in calling on the Republican leadership in Congress to bring up and pass a permanent legislative solution and protect DREAMers so they can continue to give back to our country without fear of displacement and deportation." ***(PR)***



TREASURES OF THE MARIANAS

Senbon Yashi on Rota is one of the 30 Treasures of the Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority will host a familiarization tour to share the allures of the island with Russian media during the Rota Coconut Festival on Sept. 11-16, 2017. Photo provided by MVA.

JUNJI TAKASAGO

NAVFAC Marianas awards $12.8M contract to Tikigaq Construction

PITI, Guam—Tikigaq Construction LLC, a small business in Guam that's been certified as historically underutilized, has been awarded a $12.8 million task order by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas last Aug. 31 to build a storage facility on Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

"This project is pivotal to the Pacific Airpower Resiliency Initiative on AAFB," said Engineering Flight Chief Lt. Cmdr. Michael Warren. "When completed, it will store dispersed maintenance spares and specialized equipment to support the 36th Wing and further enable the Air Force objective to hone its resiliency strategy."

The facility includes a vehicle storage area, mechanical equipment areas, a fuel support/spare parts for manifold storage area, a communications room and an office area. Also included in this contract are site improvements such as grading, drainage, access roads, water and sewer utilities, a fire protection system, interior plumbing, interior electrical and communication facilities, and site electrical amenities.

"This task order award is a testament to NAVFAC Marianas' continued focus on providing maximum practicable opportunities for small business participation in our contracting activities," said NAVFAC Marianas Assistant Deputy for Small Business Albert Sampson. "Certainly successful award would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our team of acquisition professionals, technical personnel, and our qualified small business partners."

Tikigaq Construction LLC typically falls under what is usually referred to as a Historically Underutilized Business Zone or HUBZone.

The task order was awarded under a design-build multiple award construction contract. Work will be performed in Yigo, Guam and is expected to be completed by May 2019. Four proposals were received for this task order. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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ROLE MODELS FOR OUR CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT.
SO LET'S CHANGE THE CHANNEL.

EDITORIAL

How to cope with hurricane aftermath

It's been just over a week since Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Gulf Coast, leaving tens of thousands of weary Texans struggling to pick up the pieces of their devastated lives.

They've waded through flooded streets, been rescued from water-logged houses, had to evacuate to shelters miles away. Many of them have lost everything.

It's been said that we Texans are a resilient bunch. But how do you begin the daunting task of bouncing back from something more traumatic than most of us will ever experience?

We turned to Andrew Shatte, a national expert and coach on resiliency, for some inspiration on how folks can keep it together to see clear to the other side.

The overwhelming feelings of hopelessness are natural, he says. Still, there are strategies that work to help pull people through.

1. As much as possible, try to stay calm.

Traumatic events push inherent emotional hot buttons. If anger is the way you deal with stress, be mindful of that to control it. Emotions are legitimate responses, but try to keep them in check.

2. Focus on what's in front of you right now.

There's a tendency to look forward several steps, which can be overwhelming. Instead, zero in on: What's the immediate task at hand?

3. Prioritize and problem-solve.

What's the biggest adversity that has to be navigated? Is it making phone calls to insurance? Getting back in homes to collect belongings? Narrow down what needs to be addressed right away: People are good at finding solutions.

4. Believe in yourself.

Many people have never been tested in quite this way. But think about times when you have overcome other big problems. Build your own confidence.

5. Practice optimism.

Shatte notes that the human brain is wired for the negative; it helps with survival. But it "robs us of energy." Victims should know "there's an entire country behind you. The rest of America stands by you. There's reason to believe that this will pass."

6. Have empathy.

It helps to understand the plight of other people in your town. Put yourself in first responders' shoes, for example. Or consider the deluge of claims that insurance providers are processing. Give people the benefit of the doubt that they are doing the best they can.

7. Reach out.

If you can, figure out how you can help. Giving back creates connections—and can give people positive feelings of being useful, that there are some things that are in their control.

There's nothing that could have adequately prepared residents in this state for a storm of this enormity. People are trying to right lives turned upside down overnight. A feeling of powerlessness is understandable—but it is also one we can overcome.

Texans are in for a long, hard road to recovery. But there's magic in our resiliency. We can do this, together.

(c)2017 *The Dallas Morning News*

Trump sends out Sessions to do his 'Dreamers' dirty work

By WILL BUNCH
Philadelphia Daily News

Will Bunch is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may email him at bunchw@phillynews.com.*

The idea behind the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program is to recognize that hundreds of thousands of migrants who were brought across the U.S. border—undocumented and often unaware—as children have grown up to accomplish wonderful things on American soil. They are top college students, nurses, and construction workers, and pillars of their local churches and neighborhoods.

But when the program to protect these young immigrants called "Dreamers" was launched during the Obama years, even the program's biggest backers couldn't have dreamed up a hero quite like Alonso Guillen, 31.

Guillen, an undocumented Mexican migrant who'd come to Lufkin, Texas, when he was just 14, graduated from Lufkin High School, went to church at his local Catholic parish, and—now grown up and with the protections offered by DACA—established a comfortable life working in construction and as a weekend DJ in his adopted hometown two hours north of Houston. He'd become too much of an American to watch the frightening images of flooding from Hurricane Harvey and not feel like he had to do something to help his neighbors, even after his father, Jesus, begged him not to go.

Guillen and two friends borrowed a boat, drove south, and when they reached the northern end of the flood zone in Spring, Texas, tried to rescue people trapped in an apartment complex.

It was the last act of Alonso Guillen's too-short life. In the fast-moving waters, the boat struck a bridge and threw out its passengers. Guillen and one of his friends didn't make it; family members searched for Guillen's body for days until it surfaced in the subsiding waters on Sunday.

"Thank you, God," Jesus Guillen told the *Houston Chronicle*, "for the time I had with him."

At roughly the same time that the family was pulling Guillen's corpse from the water, news reports said the Trump administration had decided to end the DACA program in six months without intervention from Congress, raising the possibility that 800,000 youths and younger adults like Guillen who've rooted themselves in American life as our classmates and our co-workers could lose all of that and might even be uprooted and deported back to nations they barely remember from their toddler days.

Yet again, President Trump faced a choice between a legally complicated but undoubtedly popular program (supported by roughly two-thirds of the public) that embraced the idea of an idealistic, hopeful and welcoming America—and the grim xenophobic fears of his narrow political base. Once again, Trump went with the darkest possible vision of the country he's supposed to lead.

Trump's defenders say that the president is only playing politics—that in the end he'd like to continue the "Dreamer" program but that the final say should come from Congress.

And given past support for the 2010 Dream Act—upon which DACA was based—from a host of moderate Republicans, it's not unreasonable to hope for that rarest of outcomes, salvation from Capitol Hill. But let's be clear: Trump "playing politics with DACA" is a polite way of saying he is terrorizing decent people—people who look ahead six or seven months and don't know whether they'll be sitting in chemistry class or an immigration jail cell, waiting for a bus across the Mexican border.

In a not particularly shocking development, Trump's back-in-favor attorney general, Jeff Sessions, managed to make matters worse when, sent out to do his boss' dirty work, he could barely contain his glee in announcing that DACA had been "rescinded" for the 800,000 humans he referred to as "illegal aliens"—all while prattling on about how unlawful immigration "has put our nation at risk of crime, violence, even terrorism."

This time last week, I was wondering if the simple humanity that was displayed again and again in Houston and its surrounding communities—the journalists who dropped their microphones to help rescue flood victims, the imams who opened their mosques to shelter the needy, and, yes, the immigrants who baked bread or trudged through four feet of water to reach their menial jobs—would change our mostly toxic national conversation. It probably has for some, but that buck has stopped well short of the White House.

It now seems the tone-deaf cruelty at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is set on auto-pilot. Trump showed this weekend that the former reality-show star can take enough stage direction to hug black and brown children at a hurricane shelter, but our president and his henchmen like Sessions remain incapable of truly embracing human decency, and the stubborn dignity of real Americans like the late Alonso Guillen. Hurricane Harvey, for all its destruction and heartbreak, was their opening for a reset.

There was a chance to use Houston's remarkable diversity and the willingness of thousands of undocumented immigrants to go to work rebuilding south Texas to make a brand-new start of it, but it was naive and even foolish to think Trump or Sessions would ever seize such an opportunity. You can't mend a heart that doesn't want to be unbroken.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA'S Top 10 reasons to handle your food safely

CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Top 10 reasons to handle your food safely.

USDA'S Meat and Poultry Hotline Consumers with food safety questions may call the USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline weekdays year round with questions on the safe handling of meat and poultry products. The staff is available from 10am to 4pm Eastern Standard Time; recorded messages are available other times.

Consumers may also have their questions answered via chat at www.AskKaren.gov during hotline hours and can get answers electronically 24/7 at this site.

10: Safe food handling practices are the ones most likely to preserve food's peak quality. Keeping hot foods hot and cold foods cold inhibits growth of the microorganisms that can spoil your food or make you ill. Storage at the proper temperature also retains the fresh appearance, pleasant aroma, and agreeable texture that contribute so strongly to an enjoyable dining experience.

9: Safe food handling lets you enjoy the nutritional benefits of food. If you have taken the time to carefully select a variety of healthy foods, why not use them up or properly preserve them for long-term storage while nutrient levels are at their peak? Foods that must be discarded due to decay or temperature abuse nourish no one.

8: The safest ways to handle food are usually the most efficient. Do not take chances in the name of saving time. Thawing meat and poultry products at room temperature and partial cooking are examples of practices, which can seem like good ideas, but may actually encourage bacterial growth by keeping food in the "Danger Zone" (40°-140° F.) where bacteria multiply faster. In the case of bacteria that produce heat-resistant toxins, this becomes a problem that further cooking cannot fix.

7: Safe food handling is easy. You set a good example for others, including your children. You are the last person to handle your food before it is eaten. You may be the last person to handle food before it is served to your family or friends. Take charge! Prevention of illness may be as simple as washing your hands an often neglected but VERY important act.

6: Safe food handling inspires confidence and keeps peace in the family.

Imagine: No more family feuds because someone handled dinner in a questionable fashion. In addition, family and friends will not have to call the Meat and Poultry Hotline begging to have food safety literature mailed to your address!

5: Safe food handling can enhance your standing in the community. Food for a concession stand, bake sale, or church supper must be carefully prepared. Many of those in your community are very young, elderly, or suffering from health problems that affect their immune systems. These folks are at increased risk for foodborne illness. Protect their health and the reputation of your organization.

4: Safe food handling is the responsible thing to do. Those for whom you prepare food deserve the best, and you expect no less from those who produce and prepare food for you. You are no less important than the manufacturer, government regulator, or grocer in assuring food safety. You are an important link in the farm-to-table chain.

3: Safe food handling saves money. Foodborne illness costs billions each year in health care costs and lost wages. It is hard to throw away food you know has been mishandled. But compare the cost of the food to the cost of a bad case of food poisoning, starting with the doctor's bill!

2: By handling food safely, you will spare yourself and your family from a painful bout of illness. Bacterial, parasitic, or viral illnesses caused by food are no fun, and they can have long-term consequences. Should we fear food? No. Microscopic organisms have always been and will always be an important part of our world. But we must store foods properly, cook them thoroughly, and keep our hands and work areas clean. Sometimes, what you cannot see can hurt you. Which brings us to the...

1 REASON TO HANDLE YOUR FOOD SAFELY: It may save a life. Safe food handling really does make a difference. Where do you start? Learn more. USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline can answer your food safety questions. Just call 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) toll-free nationwide.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program (a.k.a. "The Consumer Caution Corner") shares Federal Trade Commission, Federal Communications Commission, or USDA publications to promote education and awareness among the community while also enabling consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair and deceptive trade practices and other marketplace schemes.

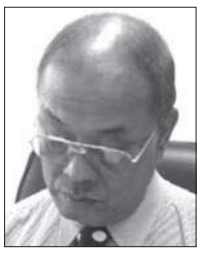
If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request a form by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint form, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization.

We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Silensiu na suenu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Guaha `nai hu huñgog eku na suenu. Un` señat na guaha bisita gi oriya `sino asuntu mamamaila`. Mampos nachatsaga pot ti otdinariu na yina`u. Gi tatteña hoñga mensahe ni debi ta atetuye haf` signifikasioña.

Kau guaha mamamaila` gera, pagyu, linau pat dilibiu? I para ta komprende haf` gaige gi tatten este na señat mauleg fan manayuyot ya tafan ma-esgaihon katma gi hinasso-ta. Mas propiu finaisen inatahan finattun ira.

Silensiu: I kinalamten iya Japon ha chenchulu parehu bisnis yan industria siha guine gi haf` ha adelalanta gi lugatña mismu. Silensiu sige ha hatsa industrian casino, areglu ni mafanana`an "rural resort" fina` hotel para i man-riku yan otdin gi tautauña na u fan bakasion halum Japon. Guaha 74 pot sientu umoppi ayu na sineyu`.

Gi halum este na rimulinu, manu patten iya Marianas? Kau asuntu este gi man-ma`gas i tanu`? Gof atan sa` kumeke atrasau pinetsigen disision pot haf` mamamaila` yan dichu satbasion para i linahyan. Ha`ilas para u palo`pu` hit dispues!

Kinalamten: Desde mediu sisienta na sakan ha ayuda hit Japon gi inestablesen industrian turista yan otru siha bisnis guine. Mababa manadan appottunidat entalu` fiñkas, fondun bisnis yan cho`chu` siha.

Homlu` ekonomia-ta `nai sosopbla fondu piot gi mediu ochenta siha na sakan. Kontodu Congresson iya America ta infotma na una` para todu ayudun salape` sa` sosopbla finatinas i tanu` para u kubre todu nesessidat-ta.

Dispues gumuaha finatsu ni ti komprendiyun `nai ha lagnosgue` Japones ginen iya Marianas. Kase $12 Biyon na fondu ha chule` huyuñg. Esta pa`gu tita bibira tatte ayu na fiñkas. Guaha mohon kampu para ta rikohe tatte haf` halagnos iya Japon?

Dilubiu: Yangin siudan Houston mamagñu` gi halum dilubiu haf` mohon ya mamatmos Marianas gi halum fache` dibi gi ti apmam yan pa`gu? Guaha maseha kadu` planu para `an masusedi este? Repara sa` esta sige halum este na dilubiu!

Tradision: Dichu na asuntu inadiñgan kuttura yan tradision natibu pa`gu na mes. Mauleg ta atan sattun haf` siha na kuttura-ta muna` likidu tautau-ta guine siha na petlas. Estague` na pisu umesgagaihon adelantun linala` tautau-ta desde antigu na tiempu.

Respetu, gineftau ayudu, yan yine`ase` haligen natibu ni sumustene kinalamteña gi halum todu mattiru yan chinatsaga. Desde tinanum gualu` esta peskan tasi man-a`ayuda todu gi mantension familia. Hihot na relasion ha simientu este na sensia gi entalu` todu.

Lamayot patte gi kinalamten natibu gaige tutuhoña gi kutturan relihion katolisismu. Finana`guen relihion umetablese sensian amtau na justisia.

Pot ihemplo, tres eskaleran Chamorro guaha gi antigu na komunida: Matua, Acha`ot yan Manachañg. I Matua ha` gai tanu`. Tai tanu` i otru klasen Chamorro. Matulaika este ni Español `nai ha sedi na todu u fan gai tanu`.

Maseha dos na kuttura guaha guine, un` puntu `nai umaya kustumbre todu atmos banda: sensian ina`ayuda piot gi oran nesessidat gotpe `sino chinatsaga. Geftau i natibu man-na`e ginen i korasoña piot gi namase` na prohimuña. Este na gineftau otdinariu yan motmut gi halum tautau isla siha.

Esta pa`gu metgot yan fitme gi heñiun natibu i sensian yine`ase`. Estague` na kustumbreta muna` fan tatautau hit guine siha na petlas. Maseha kuantu chinatsaga-ta gigon mattu oran gineftau yan yine`ase listu hit fumatta sinseru na modun ayudu. Hu chage gineftau otru piot guihe siha na tiempu `nai solu "taya`" guinahan mame. Mit grasias gi Saina pot ayu siha na bendision.

Mafañagu-yu` popble ya esta pa`gu mamatmos-yu` gi halum este na sisonyan. Lau ni una bes `nai hu ñega un` kilisyanu ni ayudu-hu. Ayudu todu klasen modu guaha. Todu pot todu mina` man-apinitiye i natibu gi kareran niha desde antes. Fitme na pogse` tautau isla!

Traision: Esta para 40 años desde ke ta gobietnan maisa hit. Kau guaha mas fitme na adelantu gi kualidat linala` tautau-ta siha? Hagu solu espehos gi este na kuestion. Atan monedan i familia yan un` ebalua yan pesa kabales i asuntu.

Mantinane` man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni` ni betsan niha na manmalefa ni tautau gi señgsoñg siha. Bendidu onrun niha gi bisnis ni lumolotge betsan niha. Debi este na kombalache umatulaika pot para tachule` tatte disposision futtunan natibu!

Dispues, atan kau magahet na fitme kualifikasion niha gi puestu ni mangaige parehu ha` i manma-apunta yan manma-elihe. Guadog papa` haf` gaige gi tinatten niha sa` siempre un` soda` na pot koneksion politika ti pot kualifikasion.

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.

How Republicans could save the 'Dreamers'

Would renegade Republicans use a discharge petition to save the "Dreamers" legislation, as one House Republican in a tough district is promising?

I don't know whether enough House Republicans favor protection for people who came to the U.S. illegally as minors. If all 194 Democrats supported the effort, it would take 24 Republican willing to sign their names. But suppose that many or more support the bill, called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Even so, it could be that House Speaker Paul Ryan will put intense pressure against Republicans who are tempted to sign the petition. If that doesn't work, Ryan could still try to substitute a watered-down measure to keep control of the House agenda for himself and his party while allowing those who want to cast a symbolic vote for DACA to do so.

Or at least, that's what speakers have typically done. Ryan, however, has a pattern of protecting himself at the expense of his party. So while I am not making any predictions, I could imagine Ryan just allowing a discharge petition to succeed.

Ryan could then tell anti-immigration hardliners that he had done everything possible to stop it, and that it wasn't his fault the thing reached the floor and passed despite his opposition. And, having passed the House, the measure would then put pressure on Mitch McConnell and other Republican Senators to move it further.

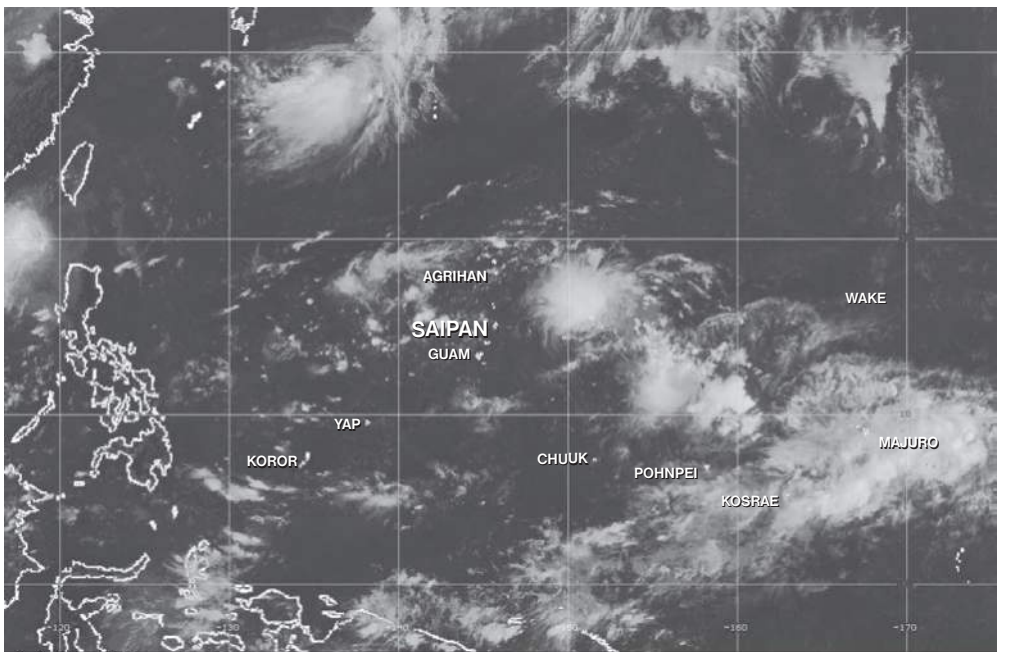
Would Ryan really sacrifice the influence of the speaker and the party caucus just to avoid any blame for a DACA bill passing? We can't know yet, but it sure would fit the pattern that he established on health care.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moist air will remain over the Marianas through most of the weekend. This will result in a risk of thunderstorms through early Sunday morning. A trough to the south of Guam will bring an increase in showers to the area later this evening through Thursday morning. A stronger trough will approach the islands toward this weekend, bringing another round of scattered showers to the region Friday through Saturday afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 68°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Showers	64° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 60°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Salem	Sunny	79° / 56°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.68
7:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
2:34 PM	LOW TIDE	0.05
8:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:38 AM	7:13 PM
Friday	-	7:31 AM	7:57 PM
Saturday	-	8:26 AM	8:42 PM
Sunday	-	9:22 AM	9:28 PM
Monday	-	10:20 AM	10:17 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Tech firms slam Trump for ending immigrant protections

NEW YORK (AP)—Technology companies and executives of other industries criticized the Trump administration for its plan to undo protections for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants and called on Congress to help them.

President Donald Trump said he will dismantle the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, an Obama-era initiative that allowed young people who were brought into the U.S. illegally as children to work legally in the U.S., shielding them from deportation. Winding down the program could put the immigrants at risk of being sent back to the countries of their birth. The administration says Congress has six months to come up with a fix.

Tech companies have pushed back against efforts to curb immigration, which they see as vital to their industry. Immigrants make up about one-quarter of the U.S. technology and science workforce, and many in Silicon Valley feel a personal connection to the issue.

On Tuesday, Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, said in a blog post that Congress should "move quickly with new legislation to protect these 800,000 Dreamers," using a popular term for the young immigrants. Notably, Smith explicitly urged that immigration legislation take precedence over tax reform, another big legislative priority for corporate America.

Microsoft will also help affected employees with attorneys, amicus briefs and, when appropriate, direct legal intervention. "If Dreamers who are our employees are in court, we will be by their side," Smith wrote. He said there are 39 affected employees that the company knows of.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg called the decision "a sad day for our country" in a post , adding that it is "particularly cruel to offer young people the American Dream, encourage them to come out of the shadows and trust our government, and then punish them for it."

AP

Cielo Mendez, 17, of Plainfield, N.J., who is a DACA recipient, second from left with banner, marches next to Gabriel Henao, 7, and Kimberly Armas, 15, of Elizabeth, N.J., in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, outside of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

Apple CEO Tim Cook said in a note to employees that he was "deeply dismayed that 800,000 Americans—including more than 250 of our Apple coworkers—may soon find themselves cast out of the only country they've ever called home." He said Apple will work with Congress on legislation "that provides permanent protections for all the Dreamers in our country" and that the company will support employees in need.

Uber's chief technology officer, Thuan Pham, who came to the U.S. as a refugee from Vietnam, wrote in an online post that the ride-hailing company will "stand by immigrants who want nothing more than to contribute to our country and pursue the American Dream."

Google CEO Sundar Pichai tweeted that "Dreamers are our neighbors, our friends and our co-workers. This is their home. Congress needs to act now to #DefendDACA. #WithDreamers."

IBM posted a series of tweets supporting legislation to let the young immigrants stay in the U.S. and said that "we stand by our IBM #Dreamers."

Other industries also slammed President Trump's actions Tuesday. Randy Falco, CEO of the company that owns Spanish-language broadcaster Univision, said in a statement that he was "disappointed, to say the least," in the administration's actions Tuesday and that Congress must "fix this mess."

Spanish-language broadcaster Telemundo, owned by Comcast's NBCUniversal, also urged Congress to act and said the young immigrants "are integral to the economy, culture and spirit of our nation."

Disney CEO Bob Iger tweeted that "Congress must act fast to protect" the young immigrants.

Lego looks wobbly after building itself high

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—For Lego, it's time to break down the blocks and start again.

After building up sales aggressively since a near bankruptcy in 2004 through new ventures like films and new toy lines, the company seems to have hit a peak. Its sales are now falling for the first time in 13 years and it says it needs to simplify its operations.

That means cutting 1,400 jobs, or eight percent of its global workforce.

The privately held Danish firm said Tuesday that it "now prepares to reset the company," with a new CEO due to take over in October.

"We will build a smaller and less complex organization than we have today, which will simplify our business model in order to reach more children," said Chairman Joergen Vig Knudstorp.

Revenue dropped 5 percent in the first six months of the year, to 14.9 billion kroner ($2.4 billion), mainly as a result of weaker demand in key markets like the U.S. and Europe, where sales had risen strongly for years. Profits slipped 3 percent to 3.4 billion kroner ($544 million).

Classic toy lines, such as "Lego City," did well, as did products associated with "The Lego Batman Movie."

But revenue in other lines did not do as well, with investments in some new products not yielding the desired benefits.

Analysts said that while the revenue drop was disappointing, it had to come at some point after years of growth.

"You hit a peak," said Jim Silver, the CEO and editor in chief of toy review site TTPM. "Nothing keeps going up like that."

Silver said the company grew rapidly as it launched new products, such as its Lego Friends line aimed at girls. "The Lego Movie," which was released three years ago, helped, too.

Looking ahead, Silver said Lego has some bright spots: Its "Star Wars" sets are selling well. And a September movie based on its "Ninjago" line could have kids asking for Legos.

But the traditional toy industry is as a whole coming off a strong few years driven by innovation and a boom in interest in collectibles.

Vig Knudstorp said the long-term aim is to get sales growing again in Europe and the United States and noted opportunities "in growing markets such as China," where sales were up by double digits so far this year.

The company, he said, needs to simplify its business model to reduce costs. Especially since 2012, the group has been adding new businesses as it embarked on ventures like films.

"We have added complexity into the organization which now in turn makes it harder for us to grow further," Vig Knudstorp said.

He said that while Lego will try to engage kids and parents through online products, such as digital social platforms and coding sets, the physical plastic toy blocks remain the focus.

New Nissan Leaf gets more range, but is it enough?

DETROIT (AP)—Nissan is turning over a new Leaf, adding 43 miles (69 kilometers) of range to the world's top-selling electric car while dropping its price to undercut Tesla's Model 3 and the Chevrolet Bolt.

But the new Leaf, due out in the U.S. early next year, won't be able to match its prime competitors in terms of range—at least not yet. Although it will be able to go 150 miles (241 kilometers) on a single electric charge, both the Tesla and the Chevy can travel over 200 miles (322 kilometers) between charging stations. The 200-mile mark is considered by many industry experts as the range needed to ease driver fears that they'll run out of juice before ending their trips.

Brian Maragno, director of electric vehicle marketing for Nissan in the U.S., said the 2018 Leaf will start at $29,990 before a $7,500 federal tax credit, an important price point to current Leaf owners, many of whom will come back as repeat buyers. The Bolt, by comparison, starts at $36,620 while the Model 3 starts at $35,000.

A Leaf with over 200 miles of range likely is coming for the 2019 model year, but it will cost more, Maragno said.

The restyled 2018 Leaf is lower and more sculpted than its bulbous predecessor, and Maragno said it also comes with new features that should attract new buyers. The base model S comes standard with automatic emergency braking, and more expensive model lines have an optional semi-autonomous driving feature that keeps the car centered in its lane and stops it from hitting objects in front of it. Also standard is a 38 percent increase in power to 147 horsepower. The car can be operated in one-pedal mode that automatically slows or stops the car when the driver eases up on the accelerator, but still includes a brake pedal.

Research has shown that Leaf buyers wanted a car below the $30,000 starting price, but they also wanted more features, Maragno said. Even with the added features, Nissan lowered the price by $690 from the 2017 model, making it attractive to current owners, he said. "For me, it's important for us to focus on the loyalty piece. You don't want to alienate those people," he said.

Nissan is waiting to introduce the 200-mile model because it takes longer to develop, Maragno said. And while that range is important in the U.S., he noted it is not as significant in other markets.

The 2018 version also gets a 6.6-kilowatt onboard charging system that draws more electricity from a 240-volt charging outlet, allowing the Leaf to go from empty to fully charged in about 7.5 hours., Maragno said.

Nissan was to roll out the new Leaf at a press conference Tuesday night in Las Vegas and later in Tokyo.

On the day of the Leaf rollout, General Motors announced that the Bolt is now available in all 50 U.S. states. The company had been phasing in the car starting on the West Coast.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
21,753.31	2,457.85	6,375.57
-234.25	-18.70	-59.76
-1.07%	-0.76%	-0.93%)

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2518	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8250	Russian Ruble	57.4983
British Pound	0.7667	Indian Rupee	63.7666	Singapore Dollar	1.3526
Canadian Dollar	1.2390	Japanese Yen	108.6570	South Korean Won	1109.29
Chinese Yuan	6.4153	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1994	Swiss Franc	0.9551
Euro	0.8392	New Zealand Dollar	1.3827	Taiwan Dollar	29.4647
		Philippine Peso	50.1103	Thailand Baht	33.0965

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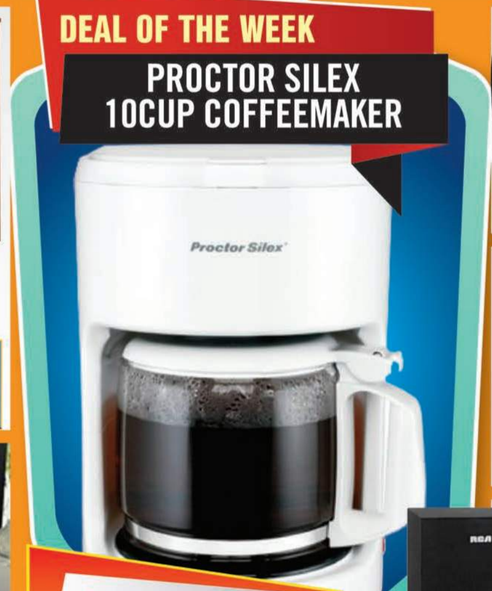

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Nation

Trump orders end to program protecting immigrant 'Dreamers'

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump on Tuesday began dismantling Barack Obama's program protecting hundreds of thousands of young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children, declaring he loves the "dreamers" who could face deportation but insisting it's up to Congress, not him, to address their plight.

Trump didn't specify what he wanted done, essentially sending a six-month time bomb to his fellow Republicans in Congress who have no consensus on how to defuse it.

On Twitter Tuesday night, he wrote: "Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was unable to do). If they can't, I will revisit this issue!"

The president tried to have it both ways with his compromise plan: fulfilling his campaign promise to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, while at the same time showing compassion for those who would lose deportation protection and the ability to work legally in the U.S. New applications will be rejected and the program will be formally rescinded, but the administration will continue to renew existing two-year work permits for the next six months, giving Congress time to act.

"I have a love for these people and hopefully now Congress will be able to help them and do it properly," Trump told reporters.

Yet at the same time, the White House distributed talking points to members of Congress that included a dark warning: "The Department of Homeland Security urges DACA recipients to use the time remaining on their work authorizations to prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States."

AP

Attorney General Jeff Sessions makes a statement at the Justice Department in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, on President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program.

Although Trump's announcement had been anticipated in recent days, it still left young people covered by the DACA program reeling.

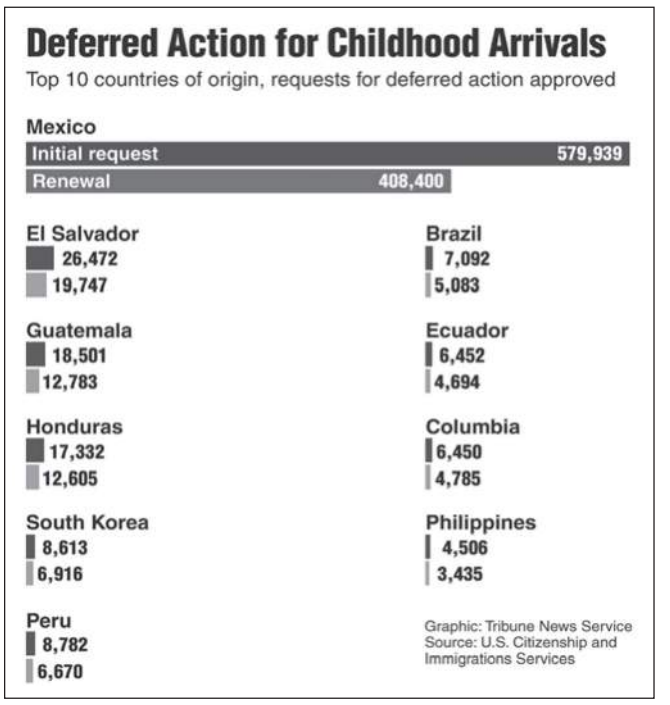
"You just feel like you are empty," said a sobbing Paola Martinez, 23, who came to the U.S. from Colombia and recently graduated with a civil engineering degree from Florida International University

"I honestly can't even process it right now," said Karen Marin, an immigrant from Mexico, who was in a physics class at Bronx Community College when the news broke. "I'm still trying to get myself together."

Their predicament now shifts to Congress, which has repeatedly tried—and failed—to pass immigration legislation.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president would look to Congress to pass a "responsible immigration reform package" with money to control the border with Mexico and better protect American workers' jobs - along with protecting "dreamers."

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate Republican, said if Trump truly wants a comprehensive immigration reform package, including a solution for the 11 million immigrants in the country illegally, he's certain to be disappointed. Congress tried that and failed in 2013, and GOP leaders immediately ruled it out Tuesday.



"Guaranteed failure," Cornyn said.

If the goal is a more incremental package that combines a solution for the "dreamers" with steps such as visa reforms and enhanced border security, "there may be a deal to be had," Cornyn said.

Sanders' blunt warning to lawmakers skeptical they can come up with a plan: "If they can't, then they should get out of the way and let somebody else take their job that can actually get something done."

The DACA program was created by former President Obama by executive action in 2012, when it became clear Congress would not act to address the young immigrants' plight in legislation that was dubbed the "Dream Act." Trump ran his campaign as an immigration-hard liner, labeling DACA as illegal "amnesty" and pledging to repeal it immediately. But he shifted his approach after the election, expressing sympathy for the "dreamers," many of whom were brought to the U.S. by their parents when they were very young and have no memories of the counties where they were born.

Trump's aides painted his move to gradually phase out the program as the best of bad options: State officials had threatened a lawsuit if he did not act by Tuesday to repeal the program, which has given nearly 800,000 young immigrants a reprieve from deportation and the ability to work legally in the U.S. in the form of two-year, renewable work permits.

Immigrants accuse Trump administration of betraying them

By ANDREW SELSKY and JOSH HOFFNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

They grew up in America and are working or going to school here. Some are building businesses or raising families of their own. Many have no memory of the country where they were born.

Now, almost 800,000 young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or overstayed their visas could see their lives upended after the Trump administration announced Tuesday it is ending the Obama-era program that protected them from deportation.

"We are Americans in heart, mind and soul. We just don't have the correct documentation that states we're American," said Jose Rivas, 27, who is studying for a master's in counseling at the University of Wyoming.

The news that the government is phasing out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA , was met with shock, anger and a sense of betrayal by its beneficiaries, often called "Dreamers." For opponents, many said they were pleased the Trump administration had put an end to President Barack Obama's DACA program, calling it an unconstitutional abuse of executive power.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who made Tuesday's announcement, said DACA was an "overreach" that could not be defended by the Justice Department. The Trump administration and other DACA opponents argue that it is up to Congress to decide how to deal with such immigrants.

Late Tuesday night, Trump tweeted, however, that he might get involved in the issue if Congress does not come up with legislation. The president tweeted: "Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was unable to do). If they can't, I will revisit this issue!"

Demonstrations broke out Tuesday in New York City, where police handcuffed and removed over a dozen immigration activists who briefly blocked Trump Tower, and in other cities, including Salt Lake City, Denver, Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon. Students walked out of class in protest in several cities, including Phoenix and Albuquerque.

Attorneys general for several states threatened to sue to protect the DACA beneficiaries. "We stand ready to take all appropriate legal action to protect Oregon's Dreamers," Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum tweeted.

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, a Republican and an early Trump supporter, said the president has every right to end DACA, which was started by Obama in 2012. But he added that it would be unconscionable to deport those who benefited from the program.

"These children grew up believing they are American, and so many of them have lived lives of which America can be proud," Reyes said.

At a Los Angeles rally, handyman John Willis carried a sign saying "American lives matter" and criticized the DACA program as an "unlawful tyrannical executive order that our previous president thrust upon us."

"I don't wish these kids to be sent back to Mexico or anything like that. But I don't believe we should have two sets of laws," he said. "We have one set of laws, we should follow them. Congress needs to get up off the pot and enact some legislation to take care of this mess."

Trump's action received harsh reviews among those in Houston who have been helping immigrants navigate disaster relief amid fears of ramped-up deportations in the new administration. The city is home to more than a half-million immigrants in the country illegally, and one DACA recipient described at a news conference how her family lost everything in the storm.

Another Houston DACA beneficiary, Ricardo Ortiz, who was brought to the U.S. from Monterrey, Mexico, at age 3, has been volunteering at the downtown convention center that sheltered thousands of storm victims.

"It's crazy that people really think that we don't belong here when we've been here all of our lives," said Ortiz, a 21-year-old student at the University of Houston.

Asia

Suu Kyi: Fake news to blame as exodus worsens

AP

A Rohingya family reaches the Bangladesh border after crossing a creek of the Naf river on the border with Myanmmar, in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf area, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP)—Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi blamed fake news and a misinformation campaign for fueling a crisis that the U.N. says has now pushed more than 125,000 minority Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh with tales of atrocities at the hands of security forces.

Suu Kyi told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call Tuesday that her government is defending "all the people" in western Rakhine state, according to a government statement. The violence and civilian suffering have prompted international condemnation and resonated particularly in many Muslim countries.

Erdogan's office in Ankara said that the Turkish leader told Suu Kyi that disproportionate use of force against the minority group should be avoided and maximum care taken to avoid harming civilians.

Suu Kyi's office said that she told Erdogan that his deputy prime minister was a victim of fake news when he posted photos purportedly showing dead Rohingya that were not related to the crisis. The photos on Mehmet Simsek's Twitter account had been taken down.

Suu Kyi said that such misinformation helps promote the interests of "terrorists," a reference to Rohingya insurgents whose deadly attacks on Myanmar security posts Aug. 25 triggered the latest military crackdown and streams of refugees.

The military has said nearly 400 people, most of them insurgents, have died in clashes. Security forces responded to the attacks with days of "clearance operations" the government says were aimed at rooting out insurgents it accuses of setting fire to Rohingya villages.

Many displaced Rohingya, however, said it was Myanmar soldiers who set their homes aflame and fired indiscriminately around their villages in Rakhine state. Rohingya Muslims have long faced discrimination in the majority-Buddhist Southeast Asian country.

A Rohingya Muslim whom The Associated Press reached by phone said that she and thousands of fellow villagers driven from their homes by the violence in Myanmar are now stuck along the coast, hoping to flee to nearby Bangladesh by boat.

The 18-year-old provided AP with cellphone photographs she took Tuesday along the beach in southern Maungdaw township in Rakhine state. Several of the photos show hundreds of people sitting on the ground, with small sacks or plastic bags holding their meager belongings. Only some had tarps or umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun.

The teenager, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for her safety, said her family's house was burned Aug. 25, right after Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar border guard police outposts.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Duterte to allow media on drug raids to disprove killings

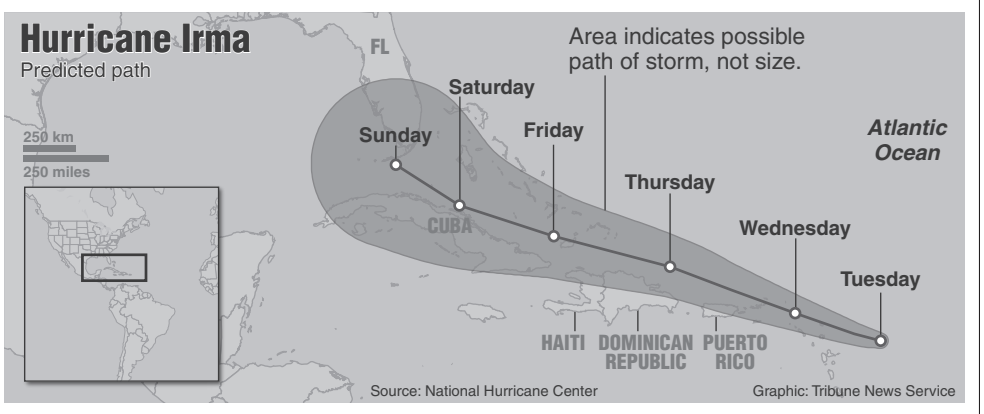
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine president ordered police on Tuesday to let journalists join raids in his crackdown on illegal drugs to disprove growing allegations of extrajudicial killings, but warned reporters they could get shot. President Rodrigo Duterte issued the order in a news conference after a televised Senate investigation into the allegations in which the national police chief, Ronald dela Rosa, wept over what he said was his exasperation over unfair allegations against his men. "Now, this is an order: Bring the media and let them go first so that they can get the story from the beginning to the end," Duterte said, explaining that when journalists are called in when a gunbattle is over, they'll say, "Ah, they just dumped the guns on the suspects." "If you get shot, will you still believe that those (suspects) have no guns? Go ahead," the president said, adding that journalists should take positions beside law enforcers during raids on suspected drug dealers' hideouts. Duterte's crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead and horrified human rights groups, came under renewed scrutiny after police gunned down a 17-year-old student, Kian Loyd delos Santos, during a raid in a slum in the Manila metropolis last month.

US pledges to return Philippine church bells but unsure when

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The United States is committed to returning three church bells seized by American forces as war spoils from the Philippines more than a century ago, the U.S. ambassador said Tuesday, raising the prospects of a resolution of a thorny issue between the allies. Ambassador Sung Kim said the two governments have discussed the return of the Balangiga bells, named for the Philippine village from which they were taken in the early 1900s. He said in response to questions from reporters that the U.S. is "deeply committed that the bells are returned to the Filipino people," but that he could not specify when that would happen. Filipinos revere the Balangiga bells as symbols of their long struggle for independence. The bells gave the signal for insurgents to attack American soldiers who were occupying Balangiga after the U.S. took possession of the Philippines following the Spanish-American War. Talks about returning the bells have been a perennial issue in U.S.-Philippine relations. Kim said there was "an ongoing discussion within the U.S. government and the Philippine government to try and facilitate the return of these bells as quickly as possible," but added there were some issues that needed to be solved in the U.S.

World

Powerful Hurricane Irma hits 1st Caribbean islands



ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP)—The most powerful Atlantic Ocean hurricane in recorded history made its first landfall in the islands of the northeast Caribbean early Wednesday, churning along a path pointing to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba before possibly heading for Florida over the weekend.

The eye of Hurricane Irma passed over Barbuda around 1:47 a.m., the National Weather Service said. Residents said over local radio that phone lines went down. Heavy rain and howling winds raked the neighboring island of Antigua, sending debris flying as people huddled in their homes or government shelters.

Officials warned people to seek protection from Irma's "onslaught" in a statement that closed with: "May God protect us all."

The Category 5 storm had maximum sustained winds of 185 mph (295 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. Its forecast late Tuesday was for the winds to fluctuate slightly but for the storm to remain at Category 4 or 5 strength for the next day or two. The most dangerous winds, usually nearest to the eye, were forecast to pass near the northern Virgin Islands and near or just north of Puerto Rico through the day Wednesday.

"I hear it's a Cat 5 now and I'm terrified," Antigua resident Carol Joseph said as she finished her last trip to the supermarket before seeking shelter. "I had to come back for more batteries because I don't know how long the current will be off."

On the 108-square-mile island, people who live in low-lying areas were staying with friends and relatives on higher ground or sleeping in churches, schools and community facilities built to withstand hurricanes. None of the shelters have yet been tested by Category 5 winds, however.

Many homes in Antigua and Barbuda are not built on concrete foundations or have poorly constructed wooden roofs that are susceptible to wind damage. Other islands in the path of the storm included the Virgin Islands and Anguilla, a small, low-lying territory of about 15,000 people.

President Donald Trump declared emergencies in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and authorities in the Bahamas said they would evacuate six southern islands.

Warm water is fuel for hurricanes and Irma is over water that is 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) warmer than normal. The 79 degree (26 Celsius) water that hurricanes need goes about 250 feet deep (80 meters), said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private forecasting service Weather Underground.

Pope heads to Colombia seeking to heal conflict's wounds

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Pope Francis is heading to Colombia on Wednesday to try to help heal the wounds of Latin America's longest-running conflict, bolstered by a new cease-fire with a holdout rebel group but fully aware of the fragility of the country's peace process.

During a deeply symbolic five-day visit starting Wednesday, Francis is expected to press Colombian leaders to address the social and economic disparities that fueled five decades of armed rebellion, while encouraging ordinary Colombians to balance their need for justice with forgiveness.

In a video message on the eve of his departure, Francis urged all Colombians to take a "first step" and reach out to one another for the sake of peace and the future.

"Peace is what Colombia has been looking for and working for such a long time," he said. "A stable and lasting peace, so that we can see one another and treat one another as brothers, not as enemies."

A year after the Colombian government signed the peace accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the nation remains bitterly divided over the terms of the deal even as guerrillas have laid down their arms and begun returning to civilian life. Even the Catholic Church hierarchy, which was instrumental in facilitating the peace talks and is now spearheading the process of reconciliation, was divided over what many Colombians saw as the overly generous terms offered to rebels behind atrocities.

Former President Alvaro Uribe, a fierce opponent of the peace deal, wrote a letter to the pope Tuesday expressing concern that the deal with the rebels had fueled a rise in drug trafficking and created economic uncertainties with the potential to destroy Colombia's social fabric.

"Your Holiness, we all want peace, but we have to build it with laws and the determination to guard against and punish violence that spreads hopelessness and distances us from God's word," Uribe wrote in the letter, which was leaked to local media.

In Bogota, city workers were busy scrubbing downtown monuments, erecting the stage for a giant outdoor Mass and putting the final touches on a security perimeter surrounding the Nunciature where the pope will sleep every night. While many Colombians hail the pope's humility as a model to emulate, they have questioned the hefty cost of the visit.

Focus

Houston's businesses inching back to work as waters recede

BY PAUL WISEMAN AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP)—Bobby Jucker has had it with hurricanes.

In 2008, Hurricane Ike tore the roof off his business, Three Brothers Bakery. Now, he estimates, he's facing $1 million in damage and lost revenue from Harvey—the fifth time a storm has put his bakery out commission.

He's always recovered before. But this time, he wears the weary countenance of a man nearly broken.

"This is the last time for me," he says. "It's emotionally draining. I just can't do it anymore."

More than a week after Harvey poured more than 4 feet of rain on Houston, killing at least 65 people, destroying thousands of cars and leaving hundreds of thousands of families with flood-damaged homes, America's fourth-biggest city is striving to reopen for business.

Houston's airports and shipping lanes reopened to limited traffic last week. Some workers returned to their offices Thursday or Friday. More followed on Tuesday after a long Labor Day weekend of cleanup and regrouping.

With waters receded, some parts of the sprawling metropolitan area look virtually untouched. Yet in other places—the leafy bedroom community of Kingwood or the Meyerland neighborhood—piles of debris sit above curbs, industrial-size dumpsters dot shopping-center parking lots and the air is thick with the odor of mold and decay.

"I'm encouraging people to get up and let's get going," Mayor Sylvester Turner said over the weekend. "Most of the city is dry. And I'm saying to people, if you can open, let's open up and let's get started."

Many big businesses will likely recover relatively quickly. But small companies will struggle to replace moldy carpets and damaged equipment, to reconnect with suppliers, to meet payroll and to draw back customers, many of whom are nursing financial injuries of their own—swamped cars, flooded basements, leaky roofs.

Some companies are still too overwhelmed to resume business, which means their employees remain idle and unpaid.

"The big boxes and big chains can absorb hits like this; small businesses can't," says Craig Fugate, who served as administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the Obama administration. "Some will make the decision not to reopen. Others won't be able to."

FEMA estimates that nearly 40 percent of small businesses never reopen after a disaster.

On Wednesday, Jucker hopes to reopen the bakery, which his father and two uncles founded 68 years ago.

Over the weekend, the place was a wreck. Jucker tossed a ruined loaf of bread into a dumpster and pointed to a jug of blue food dye that will have to go, too. Also ruined is an icemaker, upended by flood waters. Bees swarmed garbage bags full of rotting confectionary and baking ingredients. Cream puffs and Danishes wilted on racks in the parking lot.

The bakery lost the live yeast used for sourdough bread; Jucker will have to grow more. It had been roasting its own coffee but lost $15,000 worth of beans. A remodeled cafe at the front of the bakery was mostly destroyed. One of the bakery's four industrial ovens has to be replaced at a cost of more than $50,000. A second one needs at least a new motor, if not a full replacement.

PAYROLL PRESSURE

Across town, Michael Kaufman is counting his own losses. Flood waters drenched his 29-year-old business, Wholesale Cleaners, ruining the carpet, warping the counters and wrecking the computer inside his $40,000 Unipress machine. The damage comes to about $10,000.

From his son's home, where he had taken refuge, he watched the nightmare unfold on the shop's digital cameras. First, the yellow lines in the parking lot disappeared in the rain. Then the water seeped inside.

The cleaners, situated in the Jewish community of Meyerland, had always enjoyed good fortune. In the past when storms hit Houston, they flooded the opposite bank of Brays Bayou. This time, water went everywhere.

"It was a lake here," Kaufman says.

Next, Kaufman faced an odd problem: Flood victims started dropping off mounds of wet shirts and slacks, some so sodden they needed to be cleaned twice. One longtime customer brought four racks of clothes.

But what sounds like a windfall isn't. Kaufman knows it may be weeks before those customers—many of them distracted and financially squeezed by home repairs—will return to pick up their clothes and pay for the cleaning. Some might never return.

Kaufman worries that some of his clients will give up on Houston and its hurricanes and move away. That's what happened in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina brutalized that city in 2005.

In the meantime, Kaufman faces a cash crunch. And he has to meet payroll Friday.

"I'm worried about the business," he says.

Kaufman's anxiety led him to seek information about a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration, which has sent teams to Houston to provide emergency credit to businesses and homeowners. The SBA finances the replacement of damaged property and equipment and offers working capital loans to help businesses through the disaster. The interest rate on SBA business loans is just over 3.3 percent, only about half the rate on comparable loans from private-sector lenders.

As of early Tuesday, the SBA had approved 19 low-interest Harvey-related business loans worth $1.7 million.

"We have to get people to apply," says Michael Flores, a spokesman for the SBA disaster loan program. Often, he says, "they are just overwhelmed."

BLUE-COLLAR BOOM

In the short term, some Houston businesses may actually benefit in the aftermath of Harvey. Thousands of Houstonians need new cars to replace those submerged in floodwater. More need to replace carpet, drywall, roofs - even entire homes.

"Anybody's who's got any type of construction or cleanup business - they're going to go off the charts," says Fugate, the former FEMA administrator. "That's going to skyrocket."

Peyton Williams, a project manager for a Houston contractor, says he's hiring laborers as fast as he can, offering $150 a day through Facebook advertisements. On Saturday, he hired 50 laborers to do demolition work at a damaged apartment complex.

"For blue-collar construction, we're already working," Williams says, taking a break from work inside a damaged factory on Houston's north side. "Everybody wants to get back to work as fast as they can."

The businesses that reopen the fastest stand to gain an advantage. In hard-hit Kingwood, the Jason's Deli outlet reopened Thursday after a thorough cleanup. Unlike nearby competitors, the deli was spared any flood damage. For now, says Mark Livingston, a managing partner, there aren't many other options for residents who want or need to eat out.

SHEETROCK AND SMARTPHONES

The owners of Chic Tailors, near Brays Bayou in Meyerland, didn't wait for help. When Maria Tran and her family couldn't find a contractor, they went to work themselves, measuring and cutting Sheetrock to replace a soggy section of wall.

Never mind that Tran is nine months pregnant. Even her 3-year-old son, Ander, chipped in, taking out the trash and keeping watch over the others.

Tran wants to reopen the shop quickly so her sister can take over while she gives birth to her second child. She worries because she watched customers move away after previous floods. But she says that "compared with other people, we're lucky we're still here and alive."

Smartphones and the internet allowed professional firms to keep going after disaster struck. When Harvey closed the Houston offices of the Jackson Walker law firm, top managers stayed in touch with twice-a-day phone calls.

One lawyer checked into a downtown hotel after Harvey forced him from his home and visited the empty office to inspect the computer equipment. He displayed the hardware to the firm's technology staff in Dallas via smartphone video, allowing them to diagnose problems.

For some companies, the full scope of the hardship inflicted by Harvey won't be clear anytime soon. Will a flood-damaged strip mall come back? Or will it succumb to the damage it endured, imperiling the stores and restaurants that rent space there?

"The weeding-out process takes about two years," Fugate says. Bankruptcies typically rise in the aftermath of natural disasters as companies and households buckle under financial stress.

How long will take for Houston to return to business as usual?

In this Sept. 2, 2017 photo, Bobby Jucker, owner of Three Brothers Bakery, cleans up storm damage at his bakery in Houston. In 2008, Hurricane Ike tore the roof off his business. Now he estimates he's facing $1 million in damage and lost revenue from Hurricane Harvey, the fifth time a storm has put his bakery out commission. AP

Environment

Florida 'Jackass' anglers

troll social media and the law struggles to catch them

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—The trophy shot, from the grainy images that once wallpapered Florida tackle shops to the high-gloss GoPro videos vying for clicks on YouTube, is a tradition in fishing nearly as fetishized as the sport.

There's even a name for it: fish porn.

But a video that went viral this month showing a group of Gulf Coast men dragging a battered shark behind a speeding boat exposed a subculture that may be taking the term too literally. In their version, a gang of MTV "Jackass"-like characters talk smack about fishing online and post images of themselves taking shots at fish with handguns, swilling beer and Jagermeister from the gills of stunned or dead fish, and committing acts that may violate state and federal fishing rules.

The online outrage triggered by the nastiness is now spilling into real life. Conservationists, more enlightened anglers and wildlife agencies tracking a rising tide of violations on social media hope the backlash can curb behavior that is easy to condemn — but difficult to prosecute.

"There are clearly a group of anglers who know it's illegal," said David Shiffman, a former University of Miami shark researcher and fellow at Simon Fraser University who this week published a study in the journal Fisheries Research about online posts by land-based shark anglers.

"People knew the activity was illegal and actively discussed ways to avoid getting caught," he said of the hundreds of posts he studied. "But Cecil the lion was a turning point … and we may start to see a turning point here."

Over the last few decades, the fishing ethos has largely evolved to catch and release. Fishing tournaments that once called for anglers to haul in dead fish for weighing and measuring now largely rely on photographs and the honor system. Fishing regulations have followed suit, with increased protections for gamefish.

But among this "Jackass" subset, killing — the coarser the picture the better — remains a practice, increasingly drawing the attention of law enforcement.

In 2006, Florida wildlife managers, who are now investigating the men linked to the video, created a unit devoted to crimes popping up online and expanded it in 2009. Despite a spike in cases, the unit is still small — just one state supervisor oversees 14 investigators across six different regions pursuing internet crimes along with their regular cases.

The agency doesn't track the number of cases that come into the unit, or how they're resolved, said Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesman Rob Klepper. But previous stings, dubbed Operation Wild Web, highlight the difficulty in chasing internet crimes, he said.

In four different stings in recent years around the state, staged over three to four days, the agency launched a total of 550 investigations, he said. Only 280 resulted in citations or warnings.

"As you can see, the number of investigations initiated by suspicious online activity is close to double the number of cases that officers find sufficient evidence to move forward with," he said in an email.

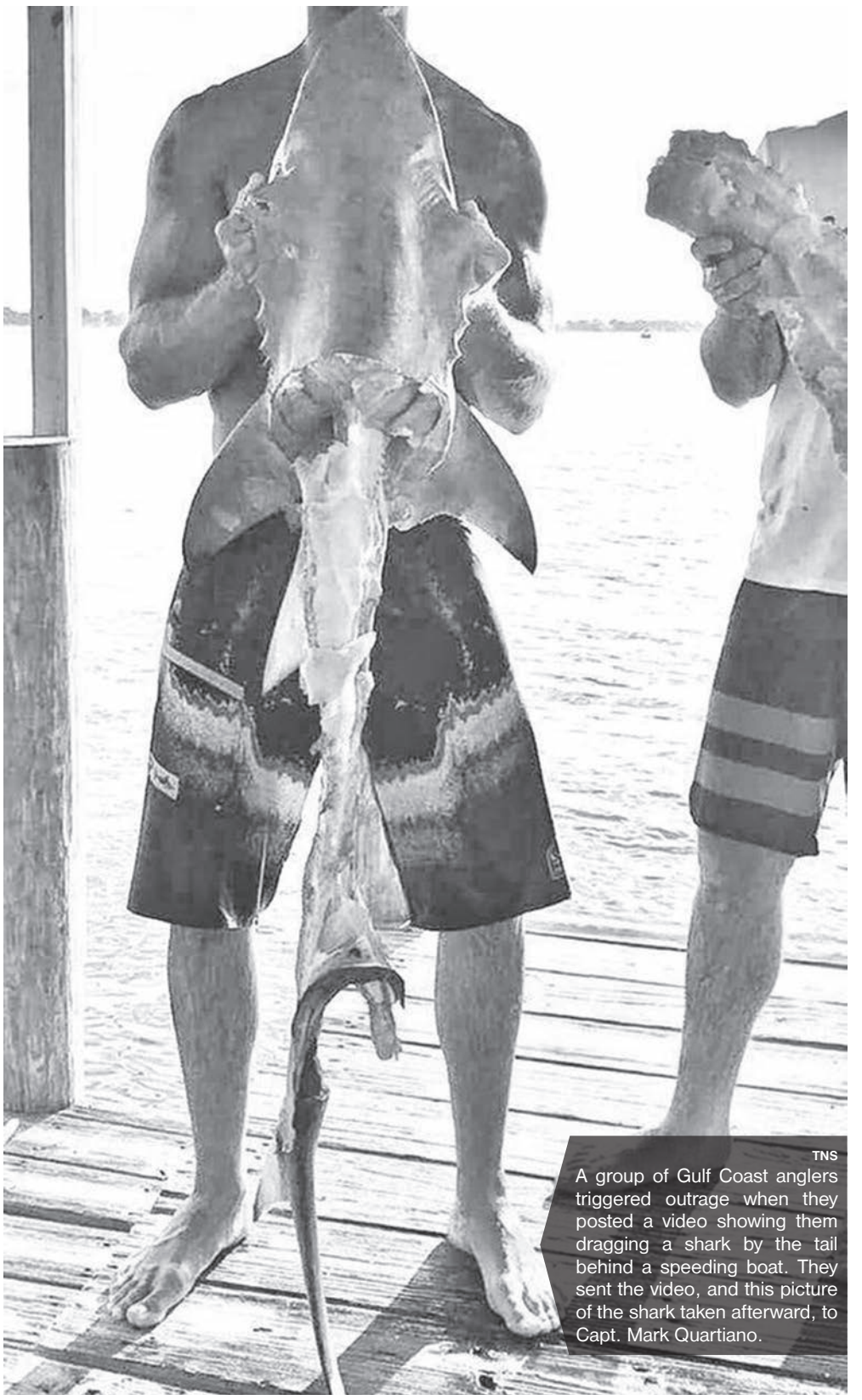
Part of the difficulty is finding them. The shark dragging video only came to light after local shark hunter Mark the Shark Quartiano, often condemned by conservationists for catching and killing sharks rather than releasing them, got messaged a copy by its creators, Michael Wenzel and Robert Lee "Bo" Benac, and posted it.

"I guess they initially sent it to me thinking it was going to be funny. They wanted my reaction or my blessing, which kind of backfired on them," he said.

Wenzel's images, including a bathroom selfie of himself dangling a great egret — a bird nearly hunted to extinction and now the symbol for National Audubon — were also shared with another public Facebook page, Doyouevenfishbro, which has 41,000 followers on its Instagram account. While some trophy shots pop up on the account, it draws just as many submissions from people memorializing the stupid side of fishing, with numerous gory images of hooked fingers and gashed legs, men beer-bonging fish, and naked anglers dangling their catches between their legs.

Its creator declined to speak by phone with the Miami Herald because of the "hostility" directed at the page, but said in a direct message critics that misunderstand its intent, which is meant to expose the behavior.

"We put people like Michael himself on display to the fishing community in a very vulgar and explicit manner just because we try and get a point over that what they do is illegal," the message said. "Also our audience is very captivated by the vulgarity which others wouldn't be. We are avid fishermen and respect our rules and regulations put forth by FWC. But it's just frustrating that people link us to Wenzel and friends when we actually are the exact opposite."



TNS
A group of Gulf Coast anglers triggered outrage when they posted a video showing them dragging a shark by the tail behind a speeding boat. They sent the video, and this picture of the shark taken afterward, to Capt. Mark Quartiano.

Wenzel, whose identity has not been confirmed by authorities, came under investigation by federal and state wildlife investigators in 2015 after he posted images of himself with tarpon in a boat and grabbing protected seabirds.

The case was closed in December after investigators concluded they could not prove when the photographs were taken — an indication that while the internet provides an endless supply of possible crimes, proving them isn't always easy.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Watts-Fitzgerald, who has spent decades prosecuting such crimes, said users are getting savvier about how they use their cellphones, turning off GPS trackers and disabling clocks that log the times of photos. Social platforms may hold that information, but getting it from out-of-state companies can be time-consuming and sap limited manpower.

The strength of the case must also be weighed before charges are filed, he said.

"There are both legal and ethical restraints," he said. "We're not internet trolls. We don't shame people with criminal charges."

And despite what may look like incontrovertible proof in an image, making a case still often requires a lot of old-fashioned investigative work involving witnesses.

"When there are just a couple of people on a boat, and one little video clip, you may need more information," he said wryly.

A few years ago, Watts-Fitzgerald prosecuted a case involving a teenager who hooked a protected manatee and posted a video online. The video only showed the rod and reel, the manatee and a corner of the teen's T-shirt as a voice narrated, he said. The wildlife investigator nailed the case because he knew the reel, a newly released Shimano, was not widely available. He also recognized part of the distinct Bass Pro Shop logo on the teen's T-shirt. Since there were only two or three stores in South Florida, he started checking and found one with four reels in stock. One was missing. When the manager listened to the video, he recognized the voice of his store clerk.

"A really astute fish and wildlife agent identified where it was and who they were," Watts-Fitzgerald said. "IT can help, but it's not a panacea."

After the shark-dragging video was released, Gov. Rick Scott urged wildlife commissioners to review state fishing rules. Commission Chairman Brian Yablonski has agreed to take a look, although it's not clear yet if the matter will make the commission's next meeting in Okeechobee in late September.

But even if regulations change, getting anglers to go along across miles of ocean may still be a big hurdle. In the past, the community has been reluctant to tighten laws, said Capt. Tom McLaughlin, the Save the Tarpon founder who complained about Wenzel to state officials two years ago. Anglers worry about "bringing animal cruelty laws into the legal arena when you're talking about fishing and hunting."

In his study of attitudes among land-based shark anglers, Shiffman also found messaging about regulations weren't being widely received.

Their attitude is "why don't these ivory-towered idiots know anything or these environmental people know anything," he said.

Anglers who break fishing rules also generally don't think their actions do much harm — even though Shiffman found recreational fishing now kills more large sharks in U.S. waters than commercial — and generally think of themselves as conservationists.

They "would probably be horrified by this," he said. "They care about sharks, they sign conservation petitions. The issue is some of their practices are demonstrably harmful and illegal. But they're not being cruel to make a joke."

Of the more than 1,500 sharks Shiffman counted in his study that looked at five years worth of posts from a South Florida online forum, only 5.5 percent mentioned releasing the fish.

Life & Style

'Star Wars Episode IX' loses director Colin Trevorrow

LOS ANGELES (AP)Colin Trevorrow will no longer be directing "Star Wars: Episode IX." Lucasfilm said Tuesday that the company and the director have mutually chosen to part ways citing differing visions for the project.

Trevorrow is best known for directing "Jurassic World" and has been working on the ninth installment of the space saga for some time. He was officially announced as the director of "Episode IX" in August of 2015 and has been cowriting the script as well. It is the final installment in the new "main" Star Wars trilogy that began with J.J. Abrams' "The Force Awakens" in 2015 and will continue this December with director Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi."

The announcement gave no indication as to whether the shakeup would affect the film's previously set May 2019 release date. Production was expected to begin next year.

"Colin has been a wonderful collaborator throughout the development process," the Lucasfilm statement read. "We wish Colin the best and will be sharing more information about the film soon."

Trevorrow had relocated to the U.K. in mid-2016 to focus on prepping the film.

"George (Lucas) came here to make 'Star Wars' and immerse himself in this place and got far away from Los Angeles, from Hollywood, really from America," Trevorrow told The Associated Press at the time. "I'm just all in. I'm 100 percent in the zone."

Trevorrow

This is the latest upheaval in the Star Wars universe. Earlier this year the young Han Solo spinoff film parted ways with director Phil Lord and Christopher Miller and replaced them with Ron Howard deep into production. And in 2015, the company fired director Josh Trank from work on another Star Wars spinoff.

Extensive reshoots on the anthology film "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" led to widespread speculation that director Gareth Edwards had been unofficially sidelined on that project as well.

Star Wars and film fans online responded to Trevorrow's departure with snarky jokes and celebration. Trevorrow had most recently directed the derided drama "The Book of Henry" and some worried about how he would handle the gargantuan task of directing a Star Wars filmeven with the box office cred he scored with "Jurassic World," which made over $1.7 billion worldwide.

Beyonce, Streisand to headline Harvey relief telethon

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce, Blake Shelton, Barbra Streisand and Oprah Winfrey will headline a one-hour telethon to benefit Hurricane Harvey victims that will be simulcast next week on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and CMT.

The event will be telecast live at 8 p.m. Eastern on Sept. 12, and on tape delay at 8 p.m. on the West Coast, and streamed live on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Houston rap artist Bun B and Scooter Braun, a Hollywood talent manager and founder of SB Projects, are the organizers.

Bun B, a Houston native and lecturer at Rice University, said he was trying to organize a local event through his contacts and recognized that Harvey was a broader tragedy.

"One morning it just hit me—this is a national disaster," he said. "It's personal for me because it's home to me, it's in my city, but it's a national disaster."

He enlisted the help of Braun, who has worked with Usher, Ariana Grande, Kanye West, Justin Bieber and others, to tap into his Hollywood contacts. Within 48 hours of trying, they reached agreements with the television networks to carry the event.

Braun said he hoped the telethon could be a unifying event for a country that has seen so much division. The organizers said they were inspired by television reports of volunteers who formed a human chain to help rescue one Houston victim from the flood.

"People want a sense of unity," Braun said.

Ex-college player who inspired ice bucket challenge honored

Pete Frates, right, who inspired the ice bucket challenge, looks at his wife Julie is during a ceremony at City Hall in Boston where Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, was declared Pete Frates Day by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. AP

BOSTON (AP)—The man who inspired the ice bucket challenge was honored on Tuesday for helping to raise millions of dollars for Lou Gehrig's disease research.

Sept. 5 was declared Pete Frates Day, Mayor Martin Walsh said, as the former Boston College baseball star was feted by more than 100 people outside City Hall.

"What it showed us is that ordinary people can make a difference," Walsh, a Democrat, said of the challenge Frates inspired. "It shows when you have a great idea you can have a rippling effect that reaches far beyond any one individual person."

Frates was diagnosed in 2012 with Lou Gehrig's disease, also called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, and can no longer speak or move. He said in a statement read by his wife, Julie Frates, that it was "amazing" and "humbling" to be honored by the city he loves.

His mother, Nancy Frates, said he has helped "alter the trajectory of a disease" that was relatively unknown and lacked adequate funding for research before the ice bucket challenge took off in the summer of 2014.

The global social media phenomenon, in which people dumped buckets of ice water over their heads and then nominated others to do the same, raised more than $200 million for ALS research.

Major League Baseball Commissioner Robert Manfred, Boston Red Sox officials, the Boston College baseball team and Frates' family members were on hand for Tuesday's festivities.

Red Sox president Sam Kennedy said Frates "belongs on the Mount Rushmore of sports" for his contributions to finding a cure for ALS.

In June, the bucket Frates used for his ice bucket challenge at Fenway Park was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, along with other mementos from his Boston College days.

Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, recently signed a bill making the first week of each August Ice Bucket Challenge Week in the state.

France: Court finds topless photos violated royal's privacy

NANTERRE, France (AP)—A French court ruled Tuesday that photographers and gossip magazine executives violated the privacy of Britain's Duchess of Cambridge by taking and publishing photographs of the former Kate Middleton sunbathing topless.

The court in a Paris suburb fined two executives of French gossip magazine Closer—owner Ernesto Mauri and executive editor Laurence Pieau—each the maximum of 45,000 euros ($53,500) for such an offense.

The Closer executives, along with two photographers for a celebrity photo agency, were collectively ordered to pay 50,000 euros ($59,500) in damages to Kate and the same amount to her husband, Prince William.

The damage award was substantially below the figure that the magazine's lawyer said the royals had requested, but the timing of the court's finding of privacy invasion had particular resonance in Britain.

Last week marked the 20th anniversary of the death of William's mother, Princess Diana, who was killed in a Paris car accident that occurred while she was being pursued by paparazzi.

The royal couple did not attend the hearing where the verdict was announced. Their office at Kensington Palace said they were pleased the court ruled in their favor and now consider the matter closed.

Kate and William "wished to make the point strongly that this kind of unjustified intrusion should not happen," the palace said in a statement.

The pictures of the duchess were taken in September 2012 with telephoto lenses while she and her husband—an heir to the British throne—were on a patio at a private estate in France's southern Provence region.

Their publication in Closer and a French regional newspaper outraged the royal family. The Closer spread included a caption reading, "On holidays I forget everything, the London grayness, and even the swimsuit left in her Highness' suitcase."

Using lists of hotel customers and cellphone data, investigators found photographers Cyril Moreau and Dominique Jacovides were in the vicinity of the castle where Kate and William vacationed in September 2012. Surges in the paparazzi's incomes were also recorded after the photos appeared in Closer.

Moreau and Jacovides, who work for Paris-based celebrity photo agency Bestimage, denied taking the most contentious pictures published in Closer. They each were fined 10,000 euros ($11,920), but the court suspended 5,000 euros ($5,958) of their penalties.

Jean Veil, the lawyer for the British royals, did not disclose how much in damages he had sought on behalf of his clients. Closer magazine lawyer Paul-Albert Iweins told reporters that the couple had requested damages worth 1.6 million euros ($1.9 million dollars.)

Swift single keeps 'Despacito' from breaking Mariah record

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Look what Taylor Swift has done. Her new single pushed the ubiquitous hit "Despacito" off the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart after 16 weeks and just shy of breaking Mariah Carey's record.

Billboard announced Tuesday that Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do," became her fifth Hot 100 chart topper. "Despacito," by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee, had tied Carey's duet with Boyz II Men, "One Sweet Day," as the longest running No. 1 songs in the 59-year history of the charts.

Swift however set her own record with the new song from her upcoming album "reputation." ''Look" broke a weekly streaming record for a song by a woman with 84.4 million U.S. streams, according to Nielsen Music.

AP

In this Feb. 4, 2017, file photo, Taylor Swift performs at the DIRECTV NOW Super Saturday Night Concert in Houston, Texas.

97th Miss America competition begins in Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Contestants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia will start facing off Wednesday night in Atlantic City, hoping to become the next Miss America.

The 97th Miss America competition will begin with the first of three nights of preliminary competition at Boardwalk Hall, the seaside arena where the next Miss America will be crowned in Sunday night's nationally televised finale.

On Saturday, the contestants will show off their state-specific footwear in the annual "Show Us Your Shoes" parade along the Boardwalk.

The contestants are vying to succeed Savvy Shields, last year's Miss Arkansas who won the title a year ago.

Dozens of items linked to Princess Diana hit auction block

BOSTON (AP)—It's been 20 years since Princess Diana's death, yet her legacy has barely faded.

Now, dozens of items with a direct connection to one of the most admired women in the world—from articles of clothing, to jewelry, to signed papers and photographs, and even to a piece of her wedding cake—are for sale by Boston-based RR Auction.

"She still resonates all over the world," RR Executive Vice President Bobby Livingston.

The 79 items from a variety of sources span most of her life, from her childhood to her teenage years to her wedding day and afterward. They even include belongings she donated to charity auctions just months before her death in a Paris car crash on Aug. 31, 1997, at age 36.

The most spectacular item is a satin-lined, silver-jeweled evening bag that dates to the early 1980s. It was given to a member of the royal household and comes with a letter confirming its authenticity. It's expected to sell for more than $15,000.

A 17-inch (43-centimeter) silver necklace with a capital "D" charm that Diana is thought to have worn as a teen is Livingston's favorite item for sale.

"It really strikes me as the most personal item," he said. "The logo became definitive of her."

The necklace is expected to sell for $2,000, but Livingston suspects it could get much more.

Perhaps the strangest item for sale is a piece of wedding cake encased in a special box commemorating Diana's marriage to Prince Charles, marked on the cover with "CD, Buckingham Palace, 29th July 1981."

Filmmakers defiant over Lynyrd Skynyrd film rights

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge's finding that a new Lynyrd Skynyrd film violates a "blood oath" made by the band to not exploit the group's name following a fatal plane crash hasn't stopped the film's creators from threatening to distribute the film.

Lawyers for the filmmakers say in court papers that they can distribute "Street Survivors: The True Story of the Lynyrd Skynyrd Plane Crash" to "anyone and everyone in the world" until the judge formally says otherwise. The film was made with input from a former drummer with the pioneering 1970s southern rock band whose hits included "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird."

U.S. District Judge Robert W. Sweet in Manhattan recently ruled that the widow of lead singer and songwriter Ronnie Van Zant and others, including founding band member Allen Collins, had shown that the film violates a nearly three-decade-old court-approved agreement aimed at preventing exploitation of the band's name and history. Van Zant died in an October 1977 plane crash in Mississippi.

After the ruling, attorney Evan Mandel, representing Los Angeles-based Cleopatra Records Inc. and Cleopatra Films, said Sweet's ruling did not specify what Cleopatra is prohibited from doing with the film, meaning Cleopatra is "under no obligation to refrain from distributing the film to anyone and everyone in the world." Mandel has said he will seek "immediate relief" from an appeals court.

In papers filed Monday, lawyers for Van Zant's widow and other plaintiffs asked the judge to ban Cleopatra from distributing the motion picture or anything related to it and to order that the film be destroyed within weeks of a final judgment. They also asked that the judge require the defendants to pay at least $634,000 in attorney fees.

Lee descendant resigns as pastor over racial justice comment

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A descendant of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee says he stepped down as pastor of a North Carolina church after negative reactions to his comments supporting racial justice during an MTV awards show "made it clear that I was no longer welcome there."

The general's distant nephew, the Rev. Robert W. Lee IV, issued a statement Monday saying he resigned from Bethany United Church of Christ near Winston-Salem after the congregation decided to put his tenure to a vote.

He said some church members were uncomfortable with his remarks praising the Black Lives Matter movement during the Aug. 27 MTV Video Music Awards. He was introducing the mother of Heather Heyer, who was killed during demonstrations over a Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Wife concerned about husband talking to neighborhood kids

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married to "Roger" for 20 years and have two kids still at home. They are pretty independent now, but my husband was very involved in coaching and volunteering when they were younger.

Sometimes when Roger and I take walks, we run into children playing in a yard or biking up and down the block. If they initiate conversation, I'll smile at them and respond with a quick "hi" or "nice bike" and keep walking, but my husband will stop to chat or listen to what they say. I have told him not to do that regardless of whether they seem willing. My fear is that an overprotective mom (like many of us moms) glancing out the window and seeing a middle-aged stranger talking to their child may assume the worst.

I know Roger loves kids, and we both sometimes miss the younger years when kids could be more open and talk with adults, but times have changed. This used to happen more often when we'd go swimming with our kids and other kids who were bored and not closely supervised would be looking for other people playing together to join. I used to worry then that if I wasn't there it could be misconstrued, although my fears never came to pass.

Do you agree that adults (and especially male adults) have to be overly cautious about engaging in any communication with an unaccompanied child?

CHANGING TIMES IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CHANGING TIMES: I think (regrettably) that the answer to your question is yes. Because fears of molestation are so prevalent now, males do have to be more circumspect with minor children than they did years ago. Frankly, that's a shame, because kids gain so much confidence by knowing an adult is interested in what they have to say. Consider staying with your husband during these friendly instances as a "buffer."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two homes. We summer in Michigan and winter in Florida. To save money on maintenance, I'd like to sell the house in Michigan and move permanently to Florida. My husband doesn't want to be in Florida during the summer, but he also does not want to be in Michigan in the winter. He won't make a decision, but he leans toward living in Michigan full time.

Because I don't like living up north in the winter, I have told him I'll be staying all year in Florida starting in January to see how it is. He plans to return to Michigan. Our Florida home is older, so to come out ahead financially, we would need to sell our place in Michigan in order to buy a newer one in Florida. Any ideas on how this could be settled?

WARMER WEATHER

DEAR WARMER WEATHER: Your idea about living for a "trial year" in Florida isn't a bad one. After spending a hot, humid summer there, you might change your mind about relocating permanently. You state that your reason for wanting to sell the Michigan home is you want a newer one than the place you presently own down south. Perhaps you could satisfy yourself AND your spouse by simply spending some money to update the old one a bit. Please consider it.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

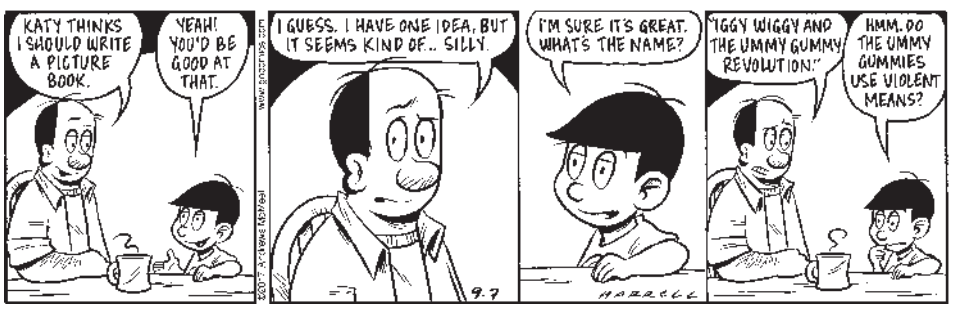
WE MADE IT! IT'S A GOOD THING THE TIME MACHINE DIDN'T STALL, OR WE'D HAVE BEEN EATEN BY DINOSAURS!
WE'RE COMING BACK TOWARD THE PRESENT NOW. DO YOU WANT TO STOP AT HOME, OR KEEP GOING INTO THE FUTURE LIKE WE PLANNED?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH TIME TRAVELING LET'S GO HOME.
LET'S GO JUST A LITTLE INTO THE FUTURE AND SEE WHAT I'M LIKE AS A TEEN-AGER!
LET'S NOT, ALL RIGHT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY THINKS I SHOULD WRITE A PICTURE BOOK.
YEAH! YOU'D BE GOOD AT THAT.
I GUESS. I HAVE ONE IDEA, BUT IT SEEMS KIND OF.. SILLY.
I'M SURE IT'S GREAT. WHAT'S THE NAME?
"IGGY WIGGY AND THE UMMY GUMMY REVOLUTION."
HMM. DO THE UMMY GUMMIES USE VIOLENT MEANS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT STATISTICS, MORE PEOPLE HAVE DOGS AS PETS THAN CATS.
WHEN I COMPLAIN ABOUT UNION DUES, REMIND ME WHAT A GOOD LOBBYING GROUP WE HAVE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lion's pride?
5 Ginormous
9 Texter's "Wow!"
12 Portent
13 October birthstone
14 Standard
15 "Enjoy!"
17 CBS logo
18 Buffet-table heater
19 "That's not news to me"
21 "Monopoly" square
22 Bach's output
24 Challenge
27 Entreat
28 Appointment
31 Here, to Henri
32 Web address
33 Science room
34 Sweet wine
36 Hobbyist's abbr.
37 Err
38 Painter Max
40 Therefore
41 "Holy cow!"
43 Perfect place
47 Ms. Thurman
48 Show pride
51 Erie Canal mule
52 Frog's kin
53 Big name in scat
54 NBC sketch show
55 London district
56 He loved Lucy

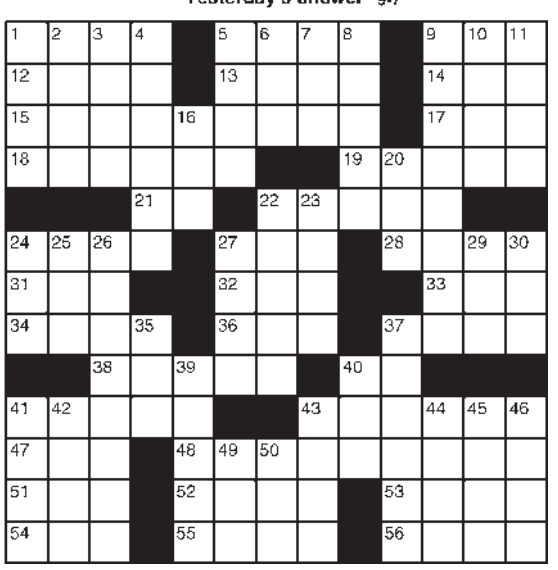
DOWN

1 Mineral-hardness scale name
2 Latin 101 word
3 Actress Campbell
4 Vigor
5 Vagrant
6 "— Lazy River"
7 Cowboy's sweetie
8 Designer Perry
9 Audition that anyone can attend
10 BLT spread
11 Got bigger
16 Yucatan year
20 Josh
22 Deserve
23 Unsightly
24 Quick swim
25 Green prefix
26 Protective software
27 Chums
29 Sigma follower
30 Recede
35 Numerical prefix
37 Paid, as the bill
39 Egg holders
40 Norm (Abbr.)
41 Wimp
42 Yemen neighbor
43 Nullify
44 Ashen
45 Misfortunes
46 Jai —
49 As well
50 Sound of relief

Solution time: 24 mins.

J	C	Y	S	■	A	L	T	■	I	B	I	S
O	R	E	O	■	L	I	I	■	C	U	R	E
S	Y	L	_	A	B	U	S	■	I	S	M	E
E	X	P	O	S	E	■	N	E	C	T	A	R
■	■	■	S	I	R	■	T	A	L	L	■	■
F	I	B	■	A	T	M	■	R	E	I	N	S
O	N	U	S	■	A	U	G	■	S	N	I	T
B	A	S	I	C	■	G	E	T	■	G	A	Y
■	■	D	A	N	A	■	N	H	L	■	■	■
~	R	F	M	O	R	■	T	R	I	A	G	F
R	O	P	E	■	C	O	L	U	M	B	U	S
A	D	O	S	■	E	N	E	■	I	R	A	S
M	E	T	E	■	D	E	H	■	I	A	R	O

Yesterday's answer 9-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Rachel Wood, 30; Oliver Hudson, 41; Toby Jones, 51; Michael Emerson, 63.

Happy Birthday: It's time to make some serious decisions that will change the way you handle your money, legalities and health issues. Look at the big picture and consider your best strategy to help prepare you for greater stabilization, less stress and more time to spend doing the things that make life worthwhile for you. Happiness comes from within. Your numbers are 4, 17, 21, 25, 33, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make the most of your time. Concentrate on being with people you love or planning a trip that encourages personal growth, revives old friendships or fosters educational pursuits. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Observe what everyone is doing before you offer help. Picking up the slack will allow you to be the one who makes a difference in the outcome of a joint effort. Making personal changes will improve your outlook. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make home and personal improvements and nurture important relationships. Stick to the basics and be straightforward about your plans and what you want to see happen. Strive for greater security and a stable home life. Personal gains will be apparent. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Pour your heart into something you really want to pursue. Your hard work will pay off even though you may not please everyone. As long as you are happy with the results you get, that's what truly matters. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let your beliefs limit your chances to get ahead or to try something new. Sharing with people from different cultural backgrounds will be a learning experience you won't forget. Stay alert and ask plenty of questions. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let uncertainty turn into a mistake. Go over the fine details and make sure to put a limit on what you spend. Preparation will be necessary if you want to ensure your financial security. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotions will be difficult to control. Look at the bright side of any situation you face. Give positive feedback and offer encouraging words to anyone who appears to be struggling. Personal changes will give you greater freedom to do as you please. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Mix business with pleasure and you will gain respect as well as favors from someone who can make a difference to your earning power. Getting along with colleagues and participating in industry events is advised. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look for ways to brighten your day. A home improvement project will help relieve your stress. Investing in the way you look will boost your confidence. Meeting new people and making travel plans should be a priority. Don't let carelessness lead to injury. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stick close to home and avoid encounters with anyone who tries to entice you to get involved in something sketchy. You'll be misled by someone who tries to get you to change your way of thinking. Say no to temptation. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Personal changes will make you feel good about yourself. Updating your look or altering the way you dress will result in compliments. Put love high on your list and the gestures you make will lead to a romantic encounter. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An opportunity will arise through someone you know. Don't dismiss the notion just because you have had problems with this person in the past. Be willing to discuss ideas and you will find a way to work together. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, industrious and perceptive. You are sensible and unique.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8			2			
			9		2			
4			5		7			9
	9	6				1	3	
				3				
	7	1				6	2	
8			3		5			6
			4		1			
		3				7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	8	4	5	3	6	1	9	2
1	3	2	7	9	4	5	6	8
6	5	9	2	1	8	7	4	3
5	9	7	3	8	1	4	2	6
3	4	6	9	7	2	8	5	1
8	2	1	6	4	5	3	7	9
4	6	3	8	2	7	9	1	5
9	7	5	1	6	3	2	8	4
2	1	8	4	5	9	6	3	7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

NEW YORK CITY'S MoMA Solution: 7 letters

H	E	Y	H	P	A	R	G	O	T	O	H	P	D	X
A	G	R	L	E	C	R	A	M	E	D	I	A	N	I
N	R	O	D	N	E	L	S	O	N	T	N	I	A	P
S	O	G	G	U	M	B	E	R	T	O	D	A	L	I
H	E	E	E	N	C	P	S	A	L	V	A	D	O	R
O	G	R	M	N	A	H	B	O	C	C	I	O	N	I
F	B	G	O	B	I	V	A	A	L	T	H	O	F	F
F	J	R	L	A	L	S	T	M	A	D	C	N	A	I
M	A	O	K	O	E	I	F	N	P	E	U	A	R	L
A	C	S	H	R	W	R	B	T	E	T	G	I	T	M
N	K	S	Y	N	A	Y	R	R	U	C	O	L	I	A
O	S	A	I	N	B	M	S	S	A	E	N	L	S	P
C	O	C	C	D	R	O	F	D	A	R	B	I	I	S
A	N	I	S	A	M	U	C	A	F	E	Y	G	V	E
B	S	P	O	L	L	O	C	K	E	N	N	E	T	H

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Aaron, Althoff, Art, Ayres, Bacon, Boccioni, Bradford, Breuer, Cafe, Curry, Dali, Duchamp, Erected, Film, Francis, George, Gillian, Glow, Gregory, Hans, Hoffman, Isamu, Jackson, John Bock, Kai, Kenneth, Library, Maps, Marcel, Mark, Media, Nelson, Noguchi, Noland, Pablo, Paint, Photography, Picasso, Pix, Pollock, Salvador, Umberto, Van Gogh, Vincent, Visit

Yesterday's Answer: Time Spirit

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Must have minimum 5 years' experience in non-life insurance company or equivalent college degree. Must be able to discharge underwriting functions including field inspection, rating, encoding of policies, communications and report preparation, administering reinsurance functions, providing materials for annual budget, servicing of agents, brokers and direct customers with the objective of targeting renewals, satisfactory loss ratios and meeting the budget. Must be computer literate in MS Word, Excel, Power Point and preferably with Oracle based insurance system.

- Underwriting Assistant (1)

Must have college degree or graduating with college degree in 2017. Experience in insurance is preferred but not mandatory. Must be computer literate in MS Word, Excel, Power Point. Must be willing to be trained and work under time pressure.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, Friday, September 15, 2017.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2017

Opening date: August 28, 2017 **Closing date: September 15, 2017**

Positions:(1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian) (1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(1)ARFF Maintenance-I (Saipan) (1) General Maintenance-II (Rota-Seaport)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than ***5:00 p.m Friday, September 15, 2017.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

WHATZIT Solution: Leave no stone unturned

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ETAGA LAPO ZAPOT

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Last bulked by Andrewes McNeel Syndicator

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Red Sox beat Blue Jays in 19 innings, 3-2

AP

Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia flips the ball to Xander Bogaerts after fielding a ground ball single by Toronto Blue Jays' Darwin Barney during the second inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

BOSTON (AP)—The Red Sox won their own version of the Boston marathon, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 3-2 in the 19th inning on an RBI single by Hanley Ramirez early Wednesday in a game that took six hours.

It was 1:11 a.m. when Mookie Betts led off with a double and Ramirez followed with a bloop single. The AL East leaders ended a three-game losing streak.

About 700 fans stayed until the end to see Boston win the longest game in the majors since July 2016, when Cleveland beat Toronto 2-1 in 19 innings. The Red Sox forced extra innings by rallying for two runs in the bottom of the ninth.

Red Sox first baseman Mitch Moreland was 31 years old when his RBI grounder tied it at 2—he turned 32 when his birthday came at midnight, and celebrated with a win.

This was the second-longest game ever at Fenway, which opened in 1912. The Red Sox lost to Seattle 8-7 in 20 innings in 1981—that game was suspended after 19 innings past 1 a.m. because of an American League curfew rule, and resumed about 18 hours later.

And this time, the Rolling Stones "19th Nervous Breakdown" played over the stadium sound system when the game went to the 19th.

Boston used 12 pitchers against the Blue Jays, tying an American League record set a day earlier by the Los Angeles Angels.

Hector Velazquez (3-1) picked up the win. Chris Rowley (1-2) lost in his fourth inning of relief. Red Sox center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. helped save it when he threw out Jose Bautista at the plate to end the top of the 11th, after he tried to score on a flyball.

The Red Sox increased their division lead to 3 1/2 games over New York. But the Yankees still made it a rough day for their longtime rival.

On Tuesday, The New York Times reported the Red Sox admitted to Major League Baseball they used an Apple Watch to steal signals from opposing catchers—including the Yankees—and relay them to Boston players. While swiping signs has long been part of the game, using electronic devices to do it is against the rules.

White Sox 9, Indians 4

In Chicago, Jose Ramirez hit two more homers, Austin Jackson also connected and the Cleveland Indians beat the Chicago White Sox 9-4 on Tuesday night for their 13th straight victory, the longest run by a major league team this season.

Danny Salazar got just two outs in his return from right elbow inflammation, but Cleveland's deep bullpen took over from there. Seven relievers combined for 8 1/3 scoreless innings as the Indians moved within one of their franchise-record 14-game win streak last year.

Jackson and Ramirez hit back-to-back homers during a three-run first against David Holmberg (2-4). Ramirez added another solo shot in the second, and the AL Central leaders went ahead to stay on Greg Allen's tiebreaking, two-run double in the third. Yan Gomes tacked on a three-run shot in the ninth.

Ramirez has five homers in his last three games. He is batting .500 (17 for 34) with seven homers and nine RBI on Cleveland's 11-game road trip.

Matt Davidson hit a three-run drive for last-place Chicago, which has dropped six of eight. Top prospect Yoan Moncada went 1 for 5 in his return from a bruised right shin.

Pirates 4, Cubs 3

In Pittsburgh, Max Moroff and David Freese each hit an RBI single off Carl Edwards Jr. in the eighth inning as Pittsburgh rallied past Chicago.

Pinch-hitter John Jaso led off the eighth with a walk and scored when Moroff hit a bloop single off Edwards (3-4) to tie the game. Freese drove home Moroff three batters later after the Cubs intentionally walked rookie Josh Bell.

Jordan Luplow hit the second home run of his career for Pittsburgh. Wade LeBlanc (5-2) earned the win in relief. Felipe Rivero worked a perfect ninth for his 18th save. The Pirates ran their winning streak to four on the same day the club announced contract extensions for manager Clint Hurdle and general manager Neal Huntington.

Reds 9, Brewers 3

In Cincinnati, Robert Stephenson escaped threats while pitching into the seventh, and Scooter Gennett hit a three-run homer during Cincinnati's five-run rally in the bottom of the inning against Milwaukee.

The last-place Reds have taken the first two games in the series from Milwaukee, which is trying to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2011. The Brewers remained 3+ games behind Chicago in the NL Central. They also trail Arizona and Colorado in the wild-card race.

Stephenson (4-4) wriggled out of a bases-loaded, none-out threat in the fourth inning, fanning the next three. The Reds turned three double plays behind the rookie to scuttle rallies.

Nationals 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Stephen Strasburg pitched six solid innings to help Washington edge Miami.

Daniel Murphy hit his 22nd homer and Pedro Severino also drove in a run for the Nationals, who have won seven straight against the Marlins.

Sean Doolittle worked the ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances. Doolittle allowed a bloop single to Marcell Ozuna, who scored on a sacrifice fly by Derek Dietrich, but got Brian Anderson to line out to end the game.

Strasburg (12-4) gave up a single in each of his six innings, but was able to keep the Marlins from getting into scoring position. He struck out eight and did not walk a batter, lowering his ERA to 2.78.

Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and did not add to his home run total

Rays 2, Twins 1

In St. Petersburg, Jake Odorizzi took a no-hitter into the seventh inning in front of a tiny home crowd, and Tampa Bay topped Minnesota.

Lucas Duda homered off Bartolo Colon (6-11) and hit an RBI double for the Rays (70-70), who moved within two games of Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

Joe Mauer got the Twins' first hit—and extended his hitting streak to 14 games—with a grounder that caromed off second base with one out in the seventh. Odorizzi (8-7) was lifted for reliever Dan Jennings after striking out the next batter.

The only other hitter to reach base against Odorizzi was Eddie Rosario, who walked leading off the fifth.

The announced attendance of 6,509 was the smallest ever for a Rays home game.

Rockies 9, Giants 6

In Denver, Trevor Story homered and Colorado beat San Francisco for its 10th straight win over the Giants at Coors Field.

The Rockies held off a late rally by San Francisco to increase their lead to 2 1/2 games over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. Nolan Arenado doubled in a four-run sixth for his 112th RBI, tying Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton for most in the majors.

After spot starter Tyler Chatwood lasted three innings, Colorado used eight relievers. Chris Rusin (4-0) earned the win and Greg Holland pitched a perfect ninth for his 37th save.

Tigers 13, Royals 2

In Detroit, JaCoby Jones and John Hicks each hit two of Detroit's six homers in a rout of Kansas City.

Tigers starter Anibal Sanchez threw only five pitches and was knocked out of the game in the first inning after getting hit in the right leg by Whit Merrifield's single. Sanchez exited with a bruised calf.

Myles Jaye (1-0) replaced Sanchez and pitched 2 1/3 innings for the win.

Jason Vargas (14-10) allowed seven earned runs and six hits in two innings.

Mikie Mahtook and Jose Iglesias also homered for the Tigers.

Phillies 9, Mets 1

In New York, Ben Lively homered and drove in four runs off Mets ace Jacob deGrom, and also pitched seven strong innings to lead Philadelphia over New York.

A day after falling behind the Mets 10-0 by the fourth inning, it was the Phillies' turn to answer back.

DeGrom (14-9) struck out the side in the first, but wound up allowing a career-worst nine runs -- six earned –and 10 hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Lively (3-5) hit a two-run single in the second that made it 3-1. The rookie, who homered in his last start against Miami, hit a two-run drive in a six-run fourth.

Lively is 6 for 21 (.286) with two home runs and eight RBI in his first major league season.

Odubel Herrera extended his hitting streak to 19 games and Nick Williams drove in three runs for Philadelphia. Highly touted Phillies prospect J.P. Crawford got a hit in his first big league game.

Astros 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Justin Verlander pitched six strong innings and won his Astros debut after Cameron Maybin hit a two-run homer with one out in the seventh for Houston's first hit Tuesday night in a victory over the Seattle Mariners.

With all the attention on Verlander's first game for a team other than the Detroit Tigers, it was another deadline acquisition that sent Houston to its sixth straight victory. Maybin was claimed off waivers from the Los Angeles Angels on Aug. 31 and hit his second home run since joining the Astros to snap a 1-all tie.

Seattle starter Ariel Miranda threw 112 pitches over six hitless innings that included six walks— three of which led to Houston's first run in the third on Alex Bregman's sacrifice fly.

Orioles 7, Yankees 6

In Baltimore, down to their last out against hard-throwing Dellin Betances and the New York Yankees, the Baltimore Orioles turned to a player who's got a knack for delivering in the clutch.

Manny Machado did not disappoint.

Again saving his best for last, Machado hit a two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning for a victory on Tuesday night.

"This is a huge game us," said Mark Trumbo, who help fuel Baltimore's comeback from a five-run deficit. "This is the time of the year, if you're going to make a push, we need to do it now. It was a picture-perfect inning. You couldn't ask for anything more."

Wood equalizing goal bails US out vs Honduras

AP
United States' Bobby Wood, 9, kicks the ball to score his team's first goal during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Honduras in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP)—The legs were heavy and the tension high in the 85th minute at Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano, where exuberant fans had been cheering and blowing vuvuzelas nonstop.

The United States was losing to Honduras in a World Cup qualifier played in searing late-afternoon tropical heat, just a few minutes from falling into a deep hole that would jeopardize the Americans' streak of seven straight World Cup appearances.

Bobby Wood then silenced the crowd, scoring from short-range off a scramble following a free kick. The U.S. escaped from Honduras with a 1-1 tie Tuesday.

"Huge point. Great point," U.S. captain Michael Bradley. "In a lot of moments it has nothing to do with football. It's about finding a way to survive and dealing with everything that gets thrown at you, having a group that can hold up in the toughest moments."

Playing from behind after Romell Quioto put the Catrachos ahead in the 27th minute , the U.S. dropped to fourth in the North and Central American and Caribbean region with nine points, but more importantly remained ahead of Honduras on goal difference with two qualifiers left. Panama moved into third place when it beat last-place Trinidad and Tobago 3-0.

The top three nations in the six-team group qualify for next year's tournament in Russia, and the fourth-place finisher meets Australia or Syria in a playoff for another berth. The U.S. hosts Panama on Oct. 6 at Orlando, Florida, and finishes four days later at Trinidad.

"We knew what type of spot we were in. We knew we needed at least one point," Wood said. "We knew we started bad. We weren't mentally there. We let off an easy goal, but we knew we just needed one goal and that would change everything."

Wins in the final two games would ensure a World Cup berth, but for the first time since 1989 the Americans will head into their finale uncertain of qualifying. Before Wood's goal, they might have put themselves in position to fight for a playoff spot at best.

"I was thinking we might have an early vacation at the end of this year," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said.

Quioto put the Catrachos ahead when he ran onto a pass from Alexander Lopez just inside the 18-yard box and broke in when defender Omar Gonzalez made only a slight touch on a crucial slide tackle. Left with an open 11-yard shot, the Houston Dynamo's Quioto beat goalkeeper Brad Guzan with a shot that bounced in off the far post, causing fans to stomp and shake the stadium.

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

"He just kind of like fell over the ball a little bit and Quioto regained it and finished," Arena said.

Just as in Friday's 2-0 home loss to Costa Rica, the U.S. mounted few dangerous chances.

That changed when Christian Pulisic, the Americans' emerging 18-year-old star midfielder, was fouled about 30 yards from the goal and Kellyn Acosta took the free kick. Goalkeeper Luis Lopez made a sprawling save to bat the ball with his left hand. It landed near the end line, and Matt Besler beat Johnny Palacios to the ball and while falling backward hooked it in the air to Jordan Morris at the edge of the 6-yard box. Morris outjumped Henry Figueroa and sent a backward header to Wood, who made a nifty chest trap and shot.

"Sometimes in a game like this you have to score scrappy," Morris said. "Was kind of just trying to keep the play alive."

After he chested the ball, Wood let it bounce and poked it in with his right foot from 4 yards. The stadium quieted in shock. Previously well-behaved fans threw horns and liquids at the Americans as they exited the field.

"Just kind of expecting it to land right in front of me and it did," Wood said.

Arena made seven changes to his starting lineup, saying Europe-based players were not fully fit just weeks into their club seasons and were unprepared for the heat: 93 degrees with high humidity at kickoff. Wood entered in the 73rd minute and scored his ninth goal in 34 international appearances.

Players said the grass was long and spongy. Barbed wire separated fans from the running track that surrounds the field in a stadium does not have any scoreboards.

As the exhausted Americans walked onto the team bus, they felt a sense of accomplishment but knew two tough qualifiers remain.

"The door for Russia, there's not even a crack open right now," Arena said. "There's a lot of work to be done to get to Russia."

Restaurant, casino owner to buy Rockets for $2.2 billion

HOUSTON (AP)—Restaurant and casino owner Tilman Fertitta agreed to buy the Houston Rockets from Leslie Alexander on Tuesday for an NBA-record $2.2 billion, a person with knowledge of the details said.

The price surpasses the $2 billion Steve Ballmer paid for the Los Angeles Clippers in 2014. The value was confirmed to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because terms were to remain private.

The deal must be approved by the NBA Board of Governors. It includes Clutch City Sports and Entertainment, which puts on shows and concerts at the Toyota Center.

"I am truly honored to have been chosen as the next owner of the Houston Rockets. This is a life-long dream come true," he said. "Leslie Alexander has been one of the best owners in all of sports, and I thank him immensely for this opportunity ... I am overwhelmed with emotion to have this opportunity in my beloved city of Houston."

Fertitta will be the team's sole owner. He is the owner of the Landry's restaurant chain and Golden Nugget casino and hotels. He was born in Galveston, Texas and has lived in Houston his entire adult life. The 60-year-old billionaire is the chairman of the board of regents of the University of Houston System and star of the reality show "Billion Dollar Buyer" on CNBC.

Alexander, who announced the team was for sale in July, took over as owner on July 30, 1993, and the Rockets went on to win back-to-back titles in 1994-95 behind the likes of Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler. In 24 seasons under Alexander, the Rockets have won 56.9 percent of their games, fifth-highest in the league.

"I am excited to welcome and pass the torch to Tilman," Alexander said. "He is a Houstonian, business leader and committed to the success and excellence of the Rockets both on and off the basketball court. I have personally known Tilman for over 24 years and don't think I could have found anyone more capable of continuing the winning tradition of our Houston Rockets."

The 74-year-old Alexander decided to sale the team to spend more time with family and working on his charitable endeavors.

Venus edges Kvitova for first US Open semis since 2010

NEW YORK (AP)—When her work was done, her first trip to the U.S. Open semifinals since 2010 secured, if just barely, Venus Williams sat in her sideline chair and beamed .

Williams reached her third major semifinal of the season — something she last did 15 years ago — by edging two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (2) on Tuesday night to a soundtrack of thunderous partisan support under a closed roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Definitely felt like a special match. No easy moments, not easy to hold serve or break serve," Williams said. "This match meant a lot to me, obviously, playing at home and, of course, it being a major."

The 37-year-old Williams, who won titles at Flushing Meadows way back in 2000 and 2001, trailed 3-1 in the third set before digging out of the hole with a little help: Kvitova's eighth double-fault handed over the break that made it 3-all.

And Kvitova's ninth double-fault got Williams to match point in the tiebreaker.

US OPEN

"Sometimes you have opportunities, and sometimes you take them and you don't, but it's not like you get opportunity after opportunity after opportunity in these sorts of matches," Williams said. "You have to take the ones you have."

She will face unseeded Sloane Stephens on Thursday in the first all-American women's semifinal in New York since 2002. Stephens advanced earlier Tuesday with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (4) victory over 16th-seeded Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia. It is Stephens' deepest run at any major since 2013 and the apex of a recovery from foot surgery in January.

There could be another U.S. vs. U.S. semifinal on the other side of the draw: 15th-seeded Madison Keys and 20th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe play their quarterfinals Wednesday.

"It's been a great two weeks for American tennis. Seeing all the American players in the draw and all of them advancing so deep and competing so well," Williams said. "It's great to see this resurgence, and I hope it can continue."

Kvitova, seeded 13th, was hoping to prolong her comeback from a knife attack less than nine months ago by reaching the first U.S. Open semifinal of her career. She needed surgery on her racket-holding hand after she was cut by an intruder at her home in the Czech Republic in December. She returned to the tour at the French Open in May, losing in the second round there and at Wimbledon.

Kvitova has said she still does not have full strength in her left hand. But she was often at her powerful best against No. 9 Williams, especially in the last two sets, repeatedly delivering big, flat forehands.

Neither woman played with a ton of subtlety, mainly trading stinging groundstrokes from the baseline on exchanges that grew in intensity as the 2-hour, 34-minute encounter went along.

"I had my chances," Kvitova said. "Kind of."

Williams, who revealed in 2011 she had been diagnosed with an energy-sapping autoimmune disease, is the oldest women's semifinalist in New York in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

But this sort of throwback run is becoming almost routine again for Williams, who made it to the Australian Open final in January of this year, then the Wimbledon final in July. In 2002, she participated in three Grand Slam finals, losing each to her younger sister Serena.

Governor's Tourism Cup raises $135K

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup raised a total of $135,000 in cash and in-kind donations based on the final numbers tallied by the golf tournament officials.

All proceeds will be used by the Marianas Tourism Educational Council to fund its MY WAVE Club, which educates the CNMI youth on the tourism industry's importance in the island's economy.

MTEC board chair Vicky Benavente said their tourism education program as well as the annual tourism summit would benefit from the money collected in the one-day fundraising event.

"We will also use the money for other tourism related activities involving the MY WAVE Club. I want to reiterate that MTEC continues to make an impact in our community and truly stands by its mission to make tourism everybody's business," said Benavente.

"I extend my deepest appreciation to the Marianas Visitors Authority team and all our sponsors for another great tournament and turnout," the former MVA managing director added.

A total of 144 golfers joined the double peoria format tournament held on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said MTEC has always played a crucial role in educating the CNMI's youth on the importance of the tourism industry to the entire community.

"One of the key goals of tourism education is articulating the role it plays in our economy's development. For 15 years, MTEC has established tourism education and awareness in our schools, and continues to advocate for improved tourism," the governor said.

"I commend and thank all participants and sponsors for supporting a great initiative to educate our youth and improve our economy," Torres added.

Tinian gym renovation project gets going

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian players battle for the ball during a game at the Tinian Gymnasium, which will undergo renovation this year.

The first step in the renovation of the Tinian Gymnasium has been taken as the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. formally opened the bidding for the project last week.

The project will be funded under NMHC's Community Development Block Grant program.

A pre-bid conference is set for Sept. 12, Tuesday, at 10am at the Tinian Mayor's Office's conference room. All bids for the project must be submitted to the Division of Procurement and Supply not later than 10am on Sept. 28.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said he was pleased and excited that the renovation of the more than 20-year-old facility has finally started through the bidding process.

"The Tinian gym plays a vital role in the health of our island community since its construction in the early 1990s. It is more than a sports facility, it is a stomping ground for our children and a gathering place for our residents as they strive to improve their quality of life," said San Nicolas.

The Tinian Mayor's Office, in March last year, submitted a grant proposal to NMHC for the gym's renovation project. The project received $312,000 from the CDBG program.

The money will be used to update the fire alarm system, replace the broken lights at the parking lot and other termite-ridden fixtures, and repair the restrooms and roof of the entire facility.

"Most of the repairs covered by the CDBG funding are vital for safety reasons. I'm pleased that such an important facility will be getting the care it needs," said San Nicolas.

"I would also like to extend my gratitude to the NMHC board for supporting the project and recognizing the facility's significance in our community. We, at the Tinian Mayor's Office look forward to the timely completion of the project and vow to do our part in ensuring its longevity," he added.

San Nicolas' office said they plan to take advantage of the CDBG and other grant programs by submitting further application that would improve Tinian's facilities and other infrastructure.

KONQER

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U.S. military personnel and other embassy staff spending their rest and relaxation days here are also expected to join, taking a cue from the 40 marines that competed in the Palau leg of the circuit. The great turnout in the previous races prompted organizers to make the event a three-circuit race in a year.

"We're doing three events in one year. There's Palau and Guam, and now we have Saipan. We dream to also have it in other nearby countries like Kona in Hawaii or in Okinawa, Japan. We want to expand KONQER in the Pacific," said Endo.

"We know that we're facing a long road ahead of us but we want to keep the momentum. Everybody can do their share and our events bring a lot of people. That's why, if there are countries out there that want to host KONQER, we encourage them to come and observe the race in one of the three circuits," he added.

Endo said Enduro, Completion, Business, and Sprints are the four categories of KONQER's obstacle races with the former the toughest and challenging, drawing a small group of extreme athletes. Completion race is the largest component where majority of participants join since there's no time involved but only self satisfaction and gaining confidence as you overcome the challenge and finish the obstacle course.

Business is a competitive team category with companies also using it as a team building exercise for their employees, while Sprints is an obstacle course that includes a lot of running and climbing.

"Every course is different but the Sprints category remains the same, which is composed of 15 obstacles," added Endo, who was joined in the press conference by KONQER president Kelli Wedd, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring, Bank of Guam's Tania David, IT&E's Melissa Camacho, and Steve Sablan of Saipan Brewing Co.

HIGH

From Page 28

tion of four Tsunami Saipan swimmers—Aika Watanabe, Hans Xu, Joseph Ziang and Kian Pajarillaga.

The 10-year-old Pajarillaga debuted for Tsunami Saipan last season and in less than two years time, Kimura has seen significant improvement from the Grace Christian Academy student.

"He has improved a lot and became a swimmer who can almost go to a Guam meet. I have big expectation from him this season," Kimura said.

As for the 13-year-old Watanabe, the Tsunami Saipan coach is positive that the club's vice captain will soon enter the CNMI record books.

"Last season, Aika won first place in the International Flipper Race and in the Guam Ocean Swim and Guam Championships. Her target for the new season is to win first place in the girls 13 to 14 age group. I'm sure she can make it because she has greatly improved this summer. Aika trained in Japan this summer and worked harder here, too. She will become a CNMI record holder in the very near future,"

Kimura has the same kind words for the 11-year-pld Xu and 13-year-old Zhang, taking note of the extra work that the two swimmers put into every training session during the summer season.

"We are looking forward to seeing good performances from them in this new season," Kimura said.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan would like to thank Dolphin Club Saipan for its support to the club.

"We really hope to make a stronger relationship with DCS and join their ocean swim events this season," Kimura said.

TENORIO

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Ballers during the tournament opener. The Marianas High School student had 5 straight markers in that surge and also drilled Half Gang's last 4 to stun Big B's, which came from a 13-11 triumph over the Ol'Aces 2 on Day 1 of the competition.

A.J. Hudkins chipped in 3 points, while Roger Valencia contributed a point. Christian Arceo, Aaron Ogumoro, and Angelo Factor made 3 markers apiece for Big B's.

Big B's won its first game in the division, thanks to Ogumoro's 7 markers against the Ol'Aces 2. Factor and Jelbert Quitugua tallied 3 markers each in the win, while Brandy Onopwiy led the Ol'Aces' losing cause with his 6 points. Kevin Kabiriel had 5, while E.J. Abejo made 2.

In other U19 results, the Warriors outclassed V-God, 15-6.

All four Warriors players made things happen for their team to ease past V-God. Henry Aguon scored 5 points, Travis Malwelbug added 4, and Rawho Sulap and Kekuni Kainoa registered 3 apiece.

Meanwhile, men's open division early favorites Ol'Aces topped Pacific Islands Club 2, 20-14.

Dan Barcinas caught fire in the Ol'Aces' first game last Monday night, drilling 12 points to nearly match the entire output of PIC 2. Preston Basa, Douglas Schmidt, and Jack Lizama are the other members of the powerhouse Ol'Aces and all three also made it to the board.

Paulo Rafols and John Lewis paced PIC 2, tallying 5 points apiece, while Hiram and Raymark Castro added 2 each.

In other men's open division results, PIC 1 and Dark Horse defeated their respective opponents last Monday.

Dark Horse downed Trilogy, 14-11, thanks to the combined 9 points of Ed Camacho and Sid Quan. Mav and John Santos also played for Dark Horse with the former contributing 3 and the latter chipping in 2 in the win.

Jerome Norita had 4 points for Trilogy, which also has Syl Teregeyo, Alex Standish, and Pete Lizama as members.

Matt Duenas broke into twin digits, scoring 11 points in PIC 1's 14-10 triumph over Rollers 1. Jack Aranda posted 2 points, while Sean Rabasto had 1. Devin Galloway completes PIC 1's roster.

Rollers 1 banked on Prince Factor, who registered 7 points in the squad's losing debut. Warren Ellama and Sam Darag were the other scorers for Rollers 1 with 2 and one. Kanata Omori is also a member of Rollers 1.

In the women's division, CTSI edged PIC, 5-4.

Mikki Kautz made the go-ahead basket, her lone point in the match, while Dianne Pablo recorded 2 points and Madeleine Alegre and Jasmin Phan had one apiece. Meghan Heron and Stephanie Rochefort scored 2 points each for PIC.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	78	61	.561	—
New York	74	64	.536	3½
Baltimore	71	68	.511	7
Tampa Bay	70	70	.500	8½
Toronto	64	75	.460	14

Central Division

Cleveland	82	56	.594	—
Minnesota	71	67	.514	11
Kansas City	68	69	.496	13½
Detroit	59	79	.428	23
Chicago	54	83	.394	27½

West Division

Houston	85	53	.616	—
Los Angeles	72	67	.518	13½
Texas	69	68	.504	15½
Seattle	69	70	.496	16½
Oakland	58	80	.420	27

NATIONAL DIVISION

East Division

Washington	84	54	.609	—
Miami	67	71	.486	17
Atlanta	60	76	.441	23
New York	59	79	.428	25
Philadelphia	53	85	.384	31

Central Division

Chicago	75	63	.543	—
Milwaukee	72	67	.518	3½
St. Louis	71	67	.514	4
Pittsburgh	67	72	.482	8½
Cincinnati	60	79	.432	15½

West Division

Los Angeles	92	46	.667	—
Arizona	81	58	.583	11½
Colorado	74	64	.536	18
San Diego	62	77	.446	30½
San Francisco	54	87	.383	39½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inaugural Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Junior male 14-19 age group winner David Cai, third left, joins runner-up Arthur Joson, left, Triple J chair and chief executive officer Bob Jones, second left, and third placer William Chen, right, at the podium during the awards ceremony for the Inaugural Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run.

Triple J chair and chief executive officer Bob Jones, left, congratulates junior female 14-19 champion Tania Tan.

Male open (20-29) top finishers Edward Dela Cruz, right, and R. J. Aquino pose with their medals.

Joy Belalino, right, is the female 20-29 first place winner, while Mari Weideraenders places second.

Max Simian, left, and Raj Rai are all smiles after getting their first and third place medals in the male 40-49 division.

Female 30-39 second placer Haina Kim makes it to the podium to receive her medal.

Male 30-39 champ Caleb Streving, center, joins runner-up Leon Etienne, left, and Meao Tang at the podium.

Female 30-39 champion Janet King, right, and runner-up Julie Combinido flex their muscles for the photographers.

Red Sox beat Blue Jays in 19 innings, 3-2

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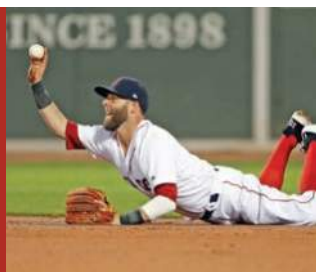

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Wood equalizing goal bails US out vs Honduras

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Test your limits at KONQER Saipan

Organizers and supporters of KONQER Saipan pose for a photo during a press conference for the event yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tenorio lifts Half Gang past Big B's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sunjoon Tenorio powered Half Gang to a 13-9 upset over Big B's in the boys U19 division game in the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tenorio scored 9 of his squad's last 10 points to help Half Gang recovered from its 11-16 debut loss to LeAir

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Half Gang's Sunjoon Tenorio, left, challenges the shot of Big B's' Aaron Ogumoro during their boys U19 division game in the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Be prepared to push yourself to your limits and overcome the challenge of one of the region's obstacle course races when KONQER Saipan King of the Hill holds its inaugural event this Saturday at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.

The race starts at 9am at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beach front.

Organizers are expecting close to 500 joining the inaugural racing event on Saipan. KONQER began in Guam in 2015, was also held for the first time in Koror, Palau in June of this year, and with Saipan's addition became a three-circuit race.

Race director Kaz Endo, who is also KONQER Sports' chief executive officer, said obstacle course races are one of the fastest growing sports events in the world and the third leg of their now three-circuit race offers different levels of challenges to each competitor.

"Every obstacle is designed with extreme athletes and weekend warriors in mind. It is made for different sizes and levels. Those who complete the course as an individual can join a team and do it again. Likewise, those who compete in teams can do it individually after," said Endo in yesterday's press conference at Fiesta's executive lounge.

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High hopes for Tsunami Saipan swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center head coach Hiro Kimura has high expectations from the club's members as the 2017-2018 season begins early next month.

Kimura said they have 86 swimmers getting ready for the races and 44 of them are qualified to compete in various tournaments, starting off with the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Opening Meet on Oct. 7.

"We have strong rookies. A lot of them come to practice every day. As a coach, I guarantee they will surprise many people this season. Of course, they are not yet ready to make CNMI records, but many of our young swimmers have big potential to do so," Kimura said.

"Everyone worked hard during the summer practices," the Tsunami Saipan coach added.

Kimura made special men-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a photo before resuming their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool early this week.